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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## Black Micro awarded \$221M contract for Tinian airport projects

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific has awarded a \$221.69-million firm-fixed price

contract to Black Micro Corp. of Barrigada, Guam on April 19 for construction at the Tinian Interna-

tional Airport in the CNMI.

"As part of our Pacific Homeland, the CNMI is vital to the defense and

economic prosperity of our region," said Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Benjamin Nich-

olson, who is the senior Indo-Pacific Command military official in the

See **BLACK** on Page 4

## Guam's Barcinas to handle Torres' case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has designated Guam Superior Court judge Arthur Barcinas to serve as judge pro tem in Attorney General Edward Manibusan's



Barcinas

pending criminal suit against former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro issued an or-

See **BARCINAS** on Page 4

## War-game does not bode well for US

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's April 22, 2027, and 72 hours into a first-strike Chinese

attack on Taiwan and the U.S. military response. Already, the toll on all sides is staggering.

It was a war game, but one with a serious purpose and

high-profile players: members of the House select committee on China. The conflict unfolded on Risk board game-style tabletop maps and

See **WAR-GAME** on Page 4

## Revised budget is now law



### » Palacios: Updated spending plan needed to avert fiscal disaster

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Citing the need to avert a fiscal disaster, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios enacted into law yesterday a bill that revises the budget law for the CNMI government's operations for the remaining months

See **BUDGET** on Page 4

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signs the revised fiscal year 2023 budget bill, House Bill No. 23-31, HS1, SS2, CCS1, into law during a news briefing yesterday morning at the Office of the Governor conference room. The new law is now Public Law 23-04,

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### 'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

157

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Philip Mendiola-Long is inviting Saipan businesses to join the Tinian Chamber of Commerce.

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### NATION

President Joe Biden will formally announce tomorrow his plans to run for reelection in 2024.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Fox News on Monday ousted prime-time host Tucker Carlson, but offered no explanation.

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# Local

## Kingman: Court's ruling was clear

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Kingman

The special prosecutor hired by the Office of the Attorney General to assist in the ongoing criminal case against former governor Ralph DLG Torres has opposed the defense's motion for the Superior Court to reconsider its previous denial of their motion to dismiss, saying the court's ruling in the motion was clear.

In a three-page response to the defense's motion for the Superior Court to reconsider its denial of their motion to dismiss for failure to allege mens rea (or intent), special prosecutor James Kingman stated that the motion is improper and unnecessary because the court's ruling on the matter was clear.

"The court's ruling detailed how the CNMI law governs statutes when there is not specific mens rea in a statute," said Kingman.

Kingman referenced the Supreme Court case Commonwealth vs. Camacho, stating that the court was clear then in its ruling that without specific mens rea, the Commonwealth must explore whether or not the defendant "knowingly"

committed the illegal act he/she has been accused of.

"In the Supreme Court case of Commonwealth v. Camacho, the

court made it clear that 'knowingly' should be read into the case. Per the court, the Commonwealth must probe that the defendant knew or should have known that he was committing an illegal act and that he knew or should have known that he was committing the act under the color of office," said Kingman.

He further argued the motion for reconsideration should have been filed 10 days after the judgment if the court's ruling really would have resulted in a "manifest injustice"—as the defense claims. Instead, it took the defense team 206 days after the court's order to file its motion.

"A 'manifest injustice' or actual confusion about the charges surely would have prompted swifter action," said Kingman.

For these reasons, Kingman said Torres' motion to reconsider and/or provide clarification should be denied as it has been appropriately ruled on.

Torres' defense team argues

that the prosecution has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the former governor had the intent, or mens rea, to commit acts that constitute misconduct in public office.

In its motion for reconsideration of the original denial order, the defense told the media through an official statement that Torres denies criminal intent and the prosecution has failed to prove otherwise beyond a reasonable doubt.

"The Office of the Attorney General must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Torres had the intent to commit the act, and did in fact commit the acts, that constitute the crime of misconduct in public office. This intent is called mens rea. For the travel at issue here, Mr. Torres travelled on behalf of the government and for a government purpose and denies having any criminal intent," the defense told the media.

"The failure to clearly provide the mens rea, or the intent, is a violation of the Constitution, laws and case laws. Therefore, the team is requesting the court to reconsider its position and further, to provide clear guidance what mens rea the Commonwealth must prove in the case against Mr. Torres," the defense further stated.

## SCS' 23rd Uke Jam this Thursday

The Ukulele Ensemble of Saipan Community School will be performing tomorrow night, April 27, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe as part of the 23rd edition of their annual Uke Jam. The event is set to start at 6pm and is open and free to the public.

At the same event, the school will also be awarding the 2023 SCS Ukulele Elite Award to a graduating SCS eighth-grader student, according to SCS principal Amanda Dunn. She said the award is intended to honor a student's display of exceptional skills in ukulele playing, their leadership when helping others improve their ukulele

skills, and the demonstration of their overall love for playing the instrument.

The show will be one of SCS' Ukulele Ensemble's first public gigs in the CNMI since winning a well-deserved gold medal at the Tumon Bay Music Festival's Solo and Ensemble Competition last month in Guam. The ensemble is composed of seventh and eighth-graders from the school, and is headed by the acclaimed father-son music duo and educators Larry and Kui Lee.

For more information, call (670) 234-6687

SCS students and staff invite members of the community to bring their family and join the jam. *(Chrystal Marino)*



SCS

Saipan Community School's Ukulele Ensemble—composed of seventh and eighth-graders—show off the gold award they got at the Tumon Bay Music Festival's Solo and Ensemble Competition last month in Guam. They are joined here by father-son music educators Larry and Kui Lee.



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# Hunter is appointed special assistant for broadband program

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has created a position of special assistant for Broadband Policy and Development Program within the Office of the Governor and appointed Glen Hunter to head the operation and administration of the program.

In a directive Friday, Palacios said the establishment of a broadband program will make the CNMI better equipped to improve the quality of life of its residents through equitable access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet, and its social, educational, healthcare, and economic benefits.

"The Broadband Policy and Development Program is very critical for our Commonwealth. With more resources becoming available from the federal government for upgrading broadband and communications, we have to put together a plan in order to

make this a reality," Palacios said in a statement yesterday.

The governor also on Friday appointed Hunter to serve as the special assistant for BPDP. The appointment will not require Senate's confirmation. "With Glen's background in small business, Information Technology, business management, and his previous experience dealing with broadband for underserved and unserved communities in Micronesia, we are confident that he will be able to lead the Commonwealth's broadband strategy to expand internet access to all of our communities," Palacios added in his statement yesterday.

An Office of the Governor news release yesterday quotes Hunter as saying he is grateful for the opportunity to serve the community in this capacity. "It is an honor to have been given such a significant responsibility

to contribute to the region's development," said Hunter. "I am excited to work alongside this administration and this team on such a critical issue as improving broadband infrastructure. I understand the importance of this issue and its impact on the economic growth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I look forward to collaborating with you all and the community to create a brighter future for our Commonwealth."

In his directive creating the position, Palacios said the spe-

cial assistant shall assist him and the CNMI government perform and carry out functions and duties necessary to develop and implement broadband strategy for the Commonwealth that promotes advanced broadband network services, expands the digital economy, increases consumer options, promotes digital literacy, increases broadband equity, and supports access and affordability for residents across the islands.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program launched by President Joe Biden under the Bi-

partisan Infrastructure Law aims to improve access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet through grant funding to all states and territories, including the CNMI.

Palacios stated this makes available to the CNMI at least \$25 million to build infrastructure and increase adoption of high-speed internet, with priority placed on unserved and underserved areas.

In addition to the BEAD Program, Palacios said millions more in federal dollars are available to the CNMI for broadband infrastructure and development through other

funding streams, including at least \$14 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury's Capital Projects Fund, \$3.4 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Digital Equity Program, and up to \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community ReConnect Program.



Hunter

## Palacios is optimistic that CUC, CHCC will resolve arrears issue

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is optimistic that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will reach a mutually agreeable plan to prevent the disconnection of the hospital's power and water services by May 4, 2023.

This comes after CUC served notices of disconnection to CHCC and Department of Public Works Wednesday last week due to unpaid power and water services amounting to \$53.6 million and \$1.12 million as of March 31, 2023, respectively. CHCC and DPW were given 14 days or until May 4 to pay or settle.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry Monday, Palacios confirmed that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang met with CUC and CHCC officials in the governor's conference room last week, Tuesday, to attempt to resolve the issue.

The governor said they respect the autonomy of the two agencies, but strongly instructed them to resolve CHCC's non-payment of utilities immediately because they are talking about the hospital.

Palacios said that CHCC's arrears are a recurring issue and there had already been a previous lawsuit involving the two agencies. He said the court basically instructed CUC not to cut the power off at the hospital, but that also placed CUC in a quandary, since it has to deal with federal court-stipulated orders and other issues with the federal government,

such as Environmental Protection Agency, that mandated it to implement certain projects.

Palacios said they instructed officials of both agencies to come up with a plan that is mutually acceptable and agreeable.

Palacios said he, in fact, had just talked with CUC board chair pro tem Janice A. Tenorio that morning, Monday, April 24, and that he understands that CUC is having some meetings and that he insisted on being briefed by the end of the day or the following morning on their decisions to address this issue.

Tenorio wrote a letter that same day, Monday, to Palacios and Apatang informing them that she had terminated acting CUC executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr. for cause.

Palacios said he and Apatang are reluctant to insert themselves into the autonomy of CUC and CHCC, which are both revenue-generating agencies.

"Obviously we want them to resolve this issue," Palacios said.

The governor said they had about an hour-and-a-half discussion with CHCC and CUC that day, Tuesday, last week. He said he walked out of that meeting very hopeful that CUC and CHCC will resolve the issue.

However, Palacios said, he read in the paper last Thursday that CUC had issued a disconnection notice to CHCC a day before, or Wednesday. "And I hope they will go back to the table and come up with a plan on how to resolve this particular issue," he said.

*Hafa Adai*

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WAR-GAME

From Page 1

markers under a giant gold chandelier in the House Ways and Means Committee room.

The exercise explored American diplomatic, economic and military options if the United States and China were to reach the brink of war over Taiwan, a self-ruled island that Beijing claims as its own. The exercise played out one night last week and was observed by The Associated Press. It was part of the committee’s in-depth review of U.S. policies toward China as lawmakers, especially in the Republican-led House, focus on tensions with President Xi Jinping’s government.

In the war game, Beijing’s missiles and rockets cascade down on Taiwan and on U.S. forces as far away as Japan and Guam. Initial casualties include hundreds, possibly thousands, of U.S. troops. Taiwan’s and China’s losses are even higher.

Discouragingly for Washington, alarmed and alienated allies in the

war game leave Americans to fight almost entirely alone in support of Taiwan.

And forget about a U.S. hotline call to Xi or one of his top generals to calm things down—not happening, at least not under this role-playing scenario.

The war game wasn’t about planning a war, lawmakers said. It was about figuring out how to strengthen U.S. deterrence, to keep a war involving the U.S., China and Taiwan from ever starting.

Ideally, the members of Congress would walk out of the war game with two convictions, the committee chairman, Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., told colleagues at the outset: “One is a sense of urgency.”

The second: “A sense ... that there are meaningful things we can do in this Congress through legislative action to improve the prospect of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait,” Gallagher said.

In reality, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, the committee’s top Democrat, told lawmakers, “we cannot have a situation where we

are faced with what we are going to be facing tonight.”

The “only way to do that is to deter aggression and to prevent a conflict from arising,” said Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill.

The U.S. doesn’t formally recognize the Taiwan government but is Taipei’s most vital provider of weapons and other security assistance. Xi has directed his military to be ready to reclaim Taiwan in 2027, by force if necessary.

Asked about lawmakers’ war game, Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy, said China wants peaceful reunification with Taiwan but reserves “the option of taking all necessary measures.”

“The U.S. side’s so-called ‘war game’ is meant to support and embolden ‘Taiwan independence’ separatists and further fuel tensions in the Taiwan Strait, which we firmly oppose,” Liu said.

In the war game, lawmakers played the blue team, in the role of National Security Council advisers. Their directive from their (imaginary) president: Deter a Chinese takeover of

Taiwan if possible, defeat it if not.

Experts for the Center for a New American Security think tank, whose research includes war-gaming possible conflicts using realistic scenarios and unclassified information, played the red team.

In the exercise, it all kicks off with opposition lawmakers in Taiwan talking about independence.

With the think tank’s defense program director Stacie Pettyjohn narrating, angry Chinese officials respond by heaping unacceptable demands on Taiwan. Meanwhile, China’s military moves invasion-capable forces into position. Steps such as bringing in blood supplies for treating troops suggest this is no ordinary military exercise.

Ultimately, China imposes a de facto blockade on Taiwan, intolerable for an island that produces more than 60 percent of the world’s semiconductors, as well as other high-tech gear.

While the U.S. military readies for a possible fight, U.S. presidential advisers—House committee members who are surrounding and studying the wooden tables with the map and troop markers spread out—assemble.

They lob questions at a retired general, Mike Holmes, playing the role of the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, before deciding courses of action.

What are the economic consequences if the U.S. goes maximalist on financial punishments, one lawmaker asks.

“Catastrophic” is the response, for both the United States and China. China will hit back at the U.S. economy as well.

“Who’s going to tell the president that he has to say to the American people, ‘Say goodbye to your iPhones?’” Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa, asks.

Do American leaders have any way to communicate with their Chinese counterparts, lawmakers ask. No, China’s leaders have a history of shunning U.S. hotline calls, and that’s a problem, the exercise leaders tell them.

In the war game, U.S. officials are left trying to pass messages to their Chinese counterparts through China-based American business leaders, whose Dell, Apple, HP and other product operations China all subsequently seizes as one of its first moves in the attack.

BUDGET

From Page 1

of fiscal year 2023 and provide an updated spending plan.

With Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang at his side, Palacios signed the legislation, House Bill 23-31, into Public Law 23-04. Others present at the ceremony—members of the Legislature’s majority and Cabinet members—clapped after witnessing the signing at the governor’s conference room on Capital Hill.

Under the revised budget the total estimated gross budgetary resources for fiscal year 2023 is \$164,198,068. Minus earmarks and transfers out in the total amount of \$48,004,271, the total local revenue and resources available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023 is \$116,193,797.

Adding the \$5,407,897 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total local revenue and resources available for appropriation is \$121,601,694.

Former governor Ralph DLG Torres had identified original projected resources in the amount of \$150,415,492 for the CNMI government and related agencies in fiscal year 2023. This resulted in the enactment of Public Law 22-22, the Appropriations Act of 2023, which had a total amount identified for appropriations at \$104.37 million. Palacios asked the Legislature to revise and repeal Public Law 22-22.

Palacios informed House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), who were also present, that he approved the legislation using his discretion under the CNMI Constitution to line-item veto several administrative provisions that would have presented a constitutional issue or lacked sufficient clarity to enforce.

“The numbers didn’t really change. Nothing really changed in the numbers. It’s just some of the provision [that] I had to veto,” the governor said.

Apatang said the revised budget shows that working together is always fruitful. The work on the new budget is credited to the Office of Management of Budget, Department of Finance, the Executive Branch staff, as well as the Legislature who worked on the bill for about a month.

Palacios said in a letter yesterday to Villagomez and DeLeon Guerrero that revising the budget for the current fiscal year became apparent during the fiscal recovery team’s discovery that the two sources of federal funds from the Community Disaster Loan and the American Rescue Plan Act, which the previous administration had assured the Legislature would be available to supplement Commonwealth resources for fiscal year 2023, had been overspent and over-committed.

“Had we continued on the original budget approved by Public Law 22-22, the Commonwealth government would have ended in a fiscal disaster with a substantial operating deficit,” the governor said.

He said his administration had no choice but to tighten the fiscal reins, cancel contracts, and reduce the biweekly work hours to 72 hours and to ask the Legislature to revise the budget.

The governor said the Department of Finance continues its review of the ARPA funding to determine the extent of any transfer of funds that are not in compliance with ARPA regulations and law.

Within the revised budget is a sensible spending plan, Palacios said, bolstered by the cautious optimism that the Commonwealth’s tax revenues will continue to trend upward and exceed the original revenue projections by 11% and the austerity measures that reduced the outlay for personnel expenses.

He said the Health Network Program (Medical Referral operations under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.), the government’s group insurance program (GHLIP), and the retirees’ 25% pension, are now funded by Commonwealth

resources; the previous administration had planned to exclusively use ARPA and CDL funds.

The governor said that under Section 601 of the bill, timely payment of utilities is mandated but without any appropriation to fund the payments.

He said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has informed the federal court overseeing compliance of the stipulated order relating to CUC’s governance that not only the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., but the Commonwealth central government also owes CUC substantial amounts that are past due.

He said the Legislature should ensure the adequate funding for CUC utilities in future budget cycles.

Palacios vetoed Section 604, which refers to revised CNMI ARPA Spending Plan, on constitutional grounds that any measure that is intended to have the force and effect of law must be originally introduced as a bill in the Legislature, which upon passage must be presented to the governor for approval.

He said the procedures sidestep the constitutional lawmaking process and would require only legislative approval through a joint resolution and reduce his office’s role to that of a consultant.

Under Section 604 of the bill, prior to the submission of a Revised Spending Plan of the ARPA funds to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Treasury, the revised spending plan must be approved by the CNMI Legislature by joint resolution after collaboratively consulting with the administration to ensure that the critical needs of the Commonwealth are addressed.

Under Section 705(c), which Palacios disapproved as a line-item veto, the Finance secretary is to reserve \$7.2 million from the CDL to fund the local Medicaid matching. Not only would that provision violate a Code of Federal Regulations, Palacios said, but the previous Torres administration has exhausted all CDL funding and there is no balance in the account to allocate for any use.

BLACK

From Page 1

region. “Military construction investments in critical infrastructure for the CNMI remain a priority for the Department of Defense. I am extremely pleased to see that a construction company based in this region has been contracted to perform this important work.”

The work to be performed includes the construction of a cargo pad with taxiway extension, fuel tanks with receipt pipeline and hydrant system, airfield development Phase I roads, and a maintenance support facility, under the Asia Pacific Stability Initiative.

“The improvements to the Tinian

International Airport will strengthen the island’s ability to efficiently and effectively conduct airport operations,” Nicholson said. “For example, the new taxiway will benefit both military and civilian aviation by allowing for simultaneous movement of multiple aircraft. This is another great example of communities working together toward mutually-beneficial objectives for a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

Work is expected to begin immediately with substantial completion anticipated expected by October 2026.

Black Micro Corp. is the Guam-based subsidiary of Tutor Perini Corp. , a leading civil, building and specialty construction company that is listed in the New York Stock Exchange. (PR)

BARCINAS

From Page 1

der yesterday appointing Barcinas to preside over Torres’ pending jury trial, which is scheduled to start on June 5, 2023.

Barcinas’ designation come a week after Guam judge Alberto Tolentino officially recused himself from the pending criminal case due to health issues.

The CNMI Judiciary has been forced to seek the assistance o the Guam Judiciary in this matter after all Superior Court judges recused themselves from this case.

In his order, Castro stated that the parties in this case may notify the Clerk of the Superior Court of any reason Barcinas should not serve as judge pro tem

“Parties shall notify the Clerk of the Superior Court in writing no later than 10 days from the date of this order of any good cause or reason why Judge Barcinas should not serve as judge pro tempore. Unless good cause be shown otherwise, judge Barcinas shall have full authority to serve in this matter and shall carry

out the duties and power inherent with the appointment,” said Castro.

Last April 19, Tolentino issued what’s referred to as a *sua sponte* order recusing himself. He did not elaborate but noted that the recusal is due to ongoing health issues.

Tolentino’s recusal left the Torres case without a judge once again as Tolentino was only appointed by the Supreme Court because all of the CNMI’s judges have recused themselves from hearing the case almost immediately after it was filed.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Torres with 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or his wife.

A little over a week prior to Tolentino’s recusal, Torres’ defense team filed two motions for reconsideration: a reconsideration of the court’s previous decision to deny dismissal of the case, and reconsideration of the court’s decision denying the team’s request to disqualify the OAG from prosecuting this case.

The prosecution has filed two separate motions opposing both motions.



# Air advisor course comes to Guam

By **SENIOR AIRMAN KAITLYN PRESTON**  
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eleven instructors with the 421st Combat Training Squadron, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, flew out to the Pacific Regional Training Center-Andersen, Guam, to conduct an air advisor course last March 27 to April 17, 2023. Students were given lessons in two main categories: combat

skills and cultural awareness.

Combat skills consisted of Tactical Combat Casualty Care, convoy procedures, advanced combat firearm training and more. Cultural awareness training taught students specific cultural understanding relevant to Indo-Pacific nations.

"Air [advisers] learn to communicate and work with other cultures," said Tech. Sgt. Mika Pajas, 421st CTS air adviser course instructor. "This

course gives airmen a great baseline knowledge of what to expect when meeting with partner nations."

According to Robert Schugart, 421st CTS air advising course director, military advising has been part of the U.S. Armed Forces operations for decades. From World War II to present day, the military has trained, advised, and equipped foreign forces with the assistance of military advisers.



U.S. Air Force members assigned to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, practice Tactical Combat Casualty Care techniques during the air advisor course at Pacific Regional Training Center-Andersen, Guam, March 31, 2023.

SENIOR AIRMAN KAITLYN PRESTON

## CNMI SBDCN presents at MHS Career Day

Members of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network team were recently invited as guest presenters to Marianas High School juniors and seniors.

Presenters were encouraged to share how high school, postsecondary education, and professional experiences shaped their careers and how their careers helped shape the CNMI.

The purpose for the career day was to introduce high school students to a variety of career paths in the CNMI. Students were able to engage with professionals from various departments, agencies, and businesses.

The following CNMI SBDCN team members participated:

■ Mercilynn K. Palec, associate network director

■ Roman Tudela, marketing manager/outreach specialist

■ Charmaine Hofschneider, administrative office manager

Stemming from different educational and professional backgrounds, Palec, Tudela, and Hofschneider now work collaboratively under the CNMI SBDCN to service the emerging and established businesses of the CNMI. **(PR)**



Members of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network team—Mercilynn K. Palec, Roman Tudela, and Charmaine Hofschneider—pose with Marianas High School students.

SBDCN

which instructors packed up and took the course away from its main training center at JBMDL to conduct an iteration of the class.

Airmen from a variety of career fields are encouraged to take the course. 1st Lt. Wyatt Huff, an AAC student with the 736th Security Forces Squadron, explained that having different skills, specialties and perspectives in a mission environment is essential.

"This training is a really good introduction to working together with other career fields," Huff said. "You learn to build good cohesion for future missions."

Additionally, this course gives airmen the capabilities they need to work with foreign forces.

"Building those partnerships is key, especially out here in the Indo-Pacific," Huff said. "We're only as strong as our partners in the region."

Following the events of 9/11, the U.S. Air Force expanded its role in building partnerships. Thus, the demand for air advising became more prevalent. In 2006, this demand was fulfilled when the Air Force Central Command initiated the "air advisor course."

Schugart said this instance of the AAC is the first in



### 500 SAILS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In attendance at the 500 Sails board of directors meeting on April 19, 2023, were: (joining via videoconference) Mario Borja, director emeritus; (back row from left to right) Pete Perez, 500 Sails executive director; Salina Sapp, director; Tiana Reyes, director; Geraldine Sasamoto, treasurer; Nadine Deleon Guerrero, director; Jun Coleman, 500 Sails director of Sailing and Seamanship; (front row from right to left): Vicky Benavente, vice president; Dave Guerrero, president; Emma Perez, secretary. Not pictured: Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, director.

500 SAILS



Eli D. Cabrera  
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
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Richard V. Salas  
Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Action Agency)

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (Owner)

### SUGAR DOCK RECONSTRUCTION & DREDGING PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

**CRM Major Siting Application No. CRM-MS2023-0006** – The Departments of Public Works (DPW) and Public Lands (DPL) are proposing to reconstruct the Sugar Dock and boat launching ramp facilities situated on public land identified as Lot No. 058 H 02 in Susupe, Saipan. The public property contains an area of about 14,919 square feet or 0.34 acres.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 5:00PM**, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315>. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at [ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp). The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Sugar Dock Reconstruction and Dredging project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management



# NMC forms Health Squad to promote holistic wellness



From left, NMC Health Squad members Miguel Dandan, NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., Ashley Sikayun, Lisa HacsKaylo, Lisa Lunde, Victoria Bellas, Malysa Castro, and Eileen Bauta.

When Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., started his term as president of Northern Marianas College in 2021, he immediately sensed that years of traumatizing events—typhoons, economic crises, and a global pandemic—had taken a heavy toll on the mental and physical health of students and employees at the college.

With that awareness, in November of that year, he launched the college’s first-ever Health Squad, which has taken a holistic approach to health with a mission to “promote health and wellness, including physical, social, emotional, and environmental health.” Since then, the Health Squad has launched several impactful initiatives and held numerous health-related events almost every month.

### Wellness Passport

The first initiative the Squad

launched was the Wellness Passport, which is currently entering its second year. The program is designed to encourage employee participation in group and individual activities that promote and support health and wellness in five dimensions: physical, social, spiritual, environmental, and emotional. Tracked online using the college’s Moodle tool, employees upload proof of participation in each of the five dimensions. Employees that complete all five dimensions qualify for a lottery at the end of the spring semester to win various prizes.

Health Squad member Lisa Lunde, who is a Sciences, Math, Health, and Athletics Department faculty, facilitates the Wellness Passport and noted its success. “Our 1st Wellness Passport during spring 2022 had 62 participants and we’re currently running one for the spring

2023 term,” she said.

### Health leave

Another initiative pursued by the Squad was to amend the college’s Sick Leave procedures to cover a broader range of health issues. Working with NMC’s College Council, Sick Leave was reframed as Health Leave in order to allow employees to avail of such leave for a wide variety of reasons, whether extra time is needed to go to the gym, an employee would like to squeeze in time for a 30-minute walk, or an employee just needs a mental health day to destress and refocus.

Squad member and Project PROA counselor Malysa Castro said, “I feel that the switch from Sick Leave to Health Leave is the institution saying that my mental and emotional health matters too. ...I appreciate that I can take care of my health as a whole and not only when I



NMC instructor Barry Wicksman leads a free tai chi class during the first-ever “Health Night” hosted by the NMC Health Squad in collaboration with the CNMI Small Business Development Center in January.



NMC Health Squad members Malysa Castro, left, and Lisa HacsKaylo, center, red, lead a “Walk this Way” event last March, which brought together NMC employees and students for a group walk. The event aimed to promote physical activity and healthy habits among participants.

am sick,” she added.

### Fitness benefit

Another initiative launched by the Health Squad was the creation of a new employee benefit in which the college partially shares the cost of an annual

membership at an approved gym. The cost is amortized via each bi-weekly payroll and is only covered as long as a participating employee avails of the gym membership.

Squad member and admissions counselor Victoria Bellas took the lead in developing the fitness benefit. As she put it, “In so many ways, I see how the Northern Marianas College sets the standard for workforce trends here in the CNMI. The launch of the Fitness Benefit aligns with this very sentiment.” She added, “I believe that more and more people see how the Health Squad is taking into consideration every aspect of mental and physical wellbeing to promote the overall happiness of our employees. In my opinion, that should set precedence for all work places here and all over the world.”

### H.A.F.A. Initiative

The Health Squad, in partnership with the college’s Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services, has also partnered with the Marianas Health Group to host its own cohort of employees who are participating in the Health Education, Awareness, and Physical Activity Initiative or H.A.F.A. Initiative. The H.A.F.A. Initiative is a pro-

gram through the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, designed for Pacific Islanders. As the CNMI’s only evidence-based lifestyle change program, class sessions include health education, awareness on food and nutrition, while promoting wellness, exercise and physical activities with local lifestyle coaches in-person and virtually via Zoom.

Squad chair and institutional researcher Lisa HacsKaylo was very happy about the launch of the H. A. F. A. Initiative. “I’ve been wanting to get back to focusing on my health for a while now, and the weekly one-hour classes on campus have been incredibly helpful.” She also said, “We all know the importance of being physically active and eating well, but with the support and encouragement of our coach, George Cruz, and our classmates and ‘battle buddies,’ we are finding ways to get moving and improve our eating habits one day at a time. It’s a journey toward better health and we are on the journey together!” (NMC)

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP23-CHCC/MSO-009A**  
“ADDENDUM”  
**EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DATE**  
**MODIFICATION ON THE MASTER LIST CATALOGUE SPREADSHEET**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 5TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**  
**“PROCUREMENT OF GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES-STOCK ITEMS”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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**RFP23-CHCC/CAS-012**

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
CNMI GOVERNMENT

**INVITATION FOR BID**

**PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-23**  
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 26, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

**“SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NINETEEN (19) BRAND NEW UNITS OF 125# WHEELED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS”**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NINETEEN (19) BRAND NEW UNITS OF 125# WHEELED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (IFB-003-23)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 26, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# CGC staff recognized as Top Mental Health First Aid instructors

The Community Guidance Center's Healthy Transitions Program staff, Becky Dania Mettao and Kimberly Tudela, have been recognized as Top Mental Health First Aid instructors by Mental Health First Aid USA.

Mettao and Tudela's achievements will be recognized during the Mental

Health First Aid Summit Awards ceremony at NatCON 23 in Los Angeles, California on April 30, 2023.

In particular, their in-depth knowledge of the content of this evidence-based curriculum, pacific-style facilitation

skills, and cultural competence, were recognized for greatly enhancing and enriching the delivery of the content.

MHFA is an evidence-based, early intervention program designed to teach people how to identify, understand

and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge—and connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary.

Participants are required to complete pre-work assign-

ments, attend the entire instructor-led class, and complete post-work assignments to obtain a 3-year MHFA certification. Participants at the end of the training gain confidence in providing initial support to others through a non-linear 5-step ac-

tion step referred to as ALGEE: Assess for risk of suicide or harm, Listen non-judgmentally, Give reassurance and information, Encourage appropriate professional help, and Encourage self-help and other support strategies. **(PR)**



Mettao



Tudela

## CGC holds ethical code and decision making process training

As part of its continued efforts to build workforce capacity and sustain partnerships with other Pacific jurisdictions through the Pacific Behavioral Health Collaborating Council, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center held a two-day "Ethics in Prevention:

An Introduction to the Ethical Code and Decision Making Process" training on Feb. 16 - 17 and April 13 - 14, 2023.

The Pacific jurisdiction-adapted curriculum helps expand behavioral health service providers' competency in the area of ethics. In its commitment to strengthen profes-

sional competencies, the CGC partners with the PBHCC, Prevention Training Technology Center, Addictions Training Technology Center, and Mental Health Training Technology Center, to provide, develop and/or adapt Pacific specific training curriculums to meet our local needs.

Led by the CGC's Administrative Services manager Reyna Saures and Healthy Transitions program manager Tiara N. Evangelista, in partnership with PBHCC executive director James Arriola, the second and third cohorts of the training included CGC personnel and the staff, par-

ticipants, and volunteers of the nonprofit recovery organization, Haggan Woong. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Region IX director, Capt. Emily Williams, was also present to witness the implementation of the most recent training. **(CHCC)**



Participants of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center "Ethics in Prevention: An Introduction to the Ethical Code and Decision Making Process" training pose for a picture after the trainings on Feb. 16 - 17 and April 13 - 14, 2023.

CHCC

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### UOG Board of Regents meeting on April 27

The regular meeting of the University of Guam Board of Regents is scheduled for 5:30pm on Thursday, April 27, 2023, in the Silent Room, RFK Library, UOG. The meeting will be publicly accessible by registering for Zoom access at <https://zoom.us/j/98937525538>. A working session will be held in the President's Conference Room at 4:30pm.

A broadcast of the 5:30pm meeting via video livestream will be available on the UOG YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/uogtriton>.

For special accommodations, contact the ADA coordinator at 735-2244 or (TTY) 735-2243. Live closed captioning is available through a website link provided within the online meeting. **(PR)**

#### Jury selection on May 1 is cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "23AS" that the jury selection scheduled for May 1, 2023, at 8:30am is cancelled until further notice. For more information, contact Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at (670) 236-9783 or (670) 783-8522. **(PR)**

## Investors check out Rota business prospects

At the invitation of Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), the CEO of InfiniD, Eunsoo Park, and his international marketing manager, Grace Lauren, and Eden Global Corp. vice president John Jung travelled from Korea and Guam, respectively, to visit various public and private properties to explore the potential of diversifying their business portfolio and expand their investments on the island of Rota.

On April 15, 2023, Ba-

bauta accompanied these investors for site visits on Rota that was coordinated by Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota). Park, Lauren, and Jung met with acting mayor Jim Atalig and Antonio Quitugua, Department of Public Lands Rota District Office.

The delegation was also able to tour some natural sites such as the Taga Stone Quarry, an ancient Chamorro Latte vil-

lage and the Songsong Village lookout for an aerial view of Songsong village.

"Investors from Korea are interested in investing in our CNMI, and they envision a revitalized tourism industry, particularly on Rota. These reputable investors expressed a serious

interest in providing interisland air service throughout the CNMI and...it couldn't have come at a better time. They

have also expressed the importance of reviving the hospitality industry and importing commodities to alleviate the high cost of living..." said Babauta. "I am optimistic that the economy of Rota will experience an infusion of economic activities in the very near future."

This increased investor interest in the Rota municipality is making Manglona optimistic for the island's economic rebound. "I am ecstatic to promote my home island so

we can leave a robust Rota for future generations, and I will continue to do what is necessary to accomplish that," said Manglona.

InfiniD is a diverse company with specialties in expo planning, architectural and interior designs, and engineering capabilities. Jung is a wholesale importer of quality produce from Korea to a variety of stores in Guam. He is also a licensed marine/ship captain, airplane pilot, and he was the previous Information Technology manager for Hyundai Motor Co. in Korea. **(PR)**



Babauta



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Wrong-place shootings and a symptom of a divided, paranoid, armed-to-the-teeth America

Someone knocks on the wrong door. An SUV pulls into the wrong driveway. A teen tries to get into the wrong car. A group of kids let a basketball roll into a neighbor's yard. These are everyday slip-ups, innocuous, benign—and in another time, quickly forgotten.

Sadly, as a horrified nation has seen in recent days, these momentary lapses can become tragedies in an America where all-too-prevalent is a shoot first, ask questions later mindset.

In Kansas City, Missouri, a 16-year-old was shot twice April 13 by a homeowner after the boy rang the wrong doorbell while trying to pick up his younger siblings. Ralph Yarl survived, and 84-year-old Andrew Lester has been charged in connection with the shooting.

Two days later, a 20-year-old woman was in an SUV with a group of friends when the vehicle turned into the wrong driveway in upstate New York. Police say a homeowner came out onto his porch wielding a shotgun and fired at the SUV as it was pulling away, killing Kaylin Gillis. Kevin Monahan, 65, has been charged with second-degree murder.

On April 18, a homeowner became enraged when children playing on a Gaston County, North Carolina, street let a basketball roll into the yard of a homeowner, who retrieved a gun from his house and fired, injuring a 6-year-old girl and her parents. Robert Louis Singletary, 24, has been charged in connection with the shooting.

That same day in Elgin, Texas, two high school cheerleaders were shot at a Texas supermarket parking lot after one of them mistakenly tried to get into the wrong car. The girls survived, though one was critically injured. Pedro Tello Rodriguez Jr., 25, was charged with felony deadly conduct.

In each case, the young victims meant no harm. They should have been encounters that ended with understanding and a brief exchange of pleasantries. Instead, they ended in violence. Needlessly.

Such encounters aren't the norm, of course. But they reflect an increasingly twitchy, angry, fear-filled America paranoid about violence, and prone to instinctively reach for a firearm—even if the perceived peril doesn't exist. Underpinning this paranoia is a toxic American political landscape that has sowed so much anger, fear and divisiveness.

There's also a more immediate component that troubles us. At least some of these incidents, so-called wrong address shootings, point to the pitfalls of "stand your ground" laws, along with the legal tenet known as "castle doctrine."

Stand your ground laws vary depending on the state, but in general they permit someone with a reasonable fear of being killed or seriously harmed to use lethal force in self-defense, rather than merely retreat in self-protection. Roughly 30 states have some form of a stand your ground law. Castle doctrine is a common law principle that justifies the use of deadly force by someone in order to protect their home, themselves and other people who live at that home.

See **WRONG** on Page 9

## At what point does AI become conscious? And what do we owe it once it gets there?

A.I. has become proficient at recognizing faces, understanding speech, reading and writing, and diagnosing diseases, and it has potential to discover new medicines. Hanson Robotics' Sophia, a lifelike bot, could converse naturally with a person and sprinkle the conversation with irony. ChatGPT, launched by Open AI in November, writes papers of higher quality than most humans can write. And in February, Bing's A.I. Chat program stunned a New York Times columnist by claiming to be in love with him and saying "I want to be alive."

A.I. is not only becoming scarily intelligent in some respects; it is also learning voraciously and surprising us with novelty.

Now that A.I.'s novelty is starting to make people wonder whether a program might have desires and interests of its own, we face tough questions. First: At what point can we realistically judge that an artificial system has its own consciousness, or subjective experience, rather than simply sounding as if it does? Second: If and when we reach that point, should we acknowledge that the system has moral status or rights? And if so, what follows practically for our relationship to A.I.?

The question about how to judge whether an artificial system is conscious raises the classic mind/body problem: how to understand the relationship between minds, such as your consciousness, and matter, such as your brain. Consensus on this issue is lacking. But many scientists and philosophers who study consciousness today hold that minds are not mysterious supernatural phenomena—immaterial souls—but instead are causally produced by, or realized in, brains. They see consciousness as part of the natural world.

Many find it hard to imagine that artificial materials such as silicon might generate something as wondrous as consciousness. Yet, upon reflection, it seems no less amazing that our fleshy brains achieve consciousness. Yet they do.

What evidence should convince us that an artificial system not only acts as if it is conscious—as Bing's A.I. Chat program sometimes does—but really is conscious? Some A.I. experts maintain that if a highly advanced robot asks us whether we humans are conscious or wonders aloud about a nonbodily afterlife or shows a preference for future pleasures over past ones (suggesting that they actually feel pleasure), such behaviors would strongly suggest a familiarity with consciousness that only a conscious being could have.

If an A.I. achieved consciousness, should we treat it as having

**By DAVID DEGRAZIA**  
The Baltimore Sun

*David DeGrazia is the Elton Professor of Philosophy at George Washington University.*



moral status or rights? My suggestion as a philosopher-ethicist is that, if their consciousness included any felt desires; any sensory feelings, such as pain or bodily comfort; or any emotional states, such as frustration or joy, then they would have interests of their own. In that case I would apply the same standard I apply to non-human animals: If they have feelings and interests of their own, then they have moral status; they matter morally for their own sake and should not be regarded as mere resources for our use. Sentient beings—conscious beings with feelings—have moral status irrespective of their species or whether they are alive. To hold otherwise is to cling to speciesism, an irrational prejudice against members of other species, or what I call "biologism," an irrational prejudice against nonliving entities.

Suppose some future artificial systems convince us of their sentience. Should we infer that they have not only (some) moral status but also the especially strong protections we call moral rights? Assuming these robots or other systems persuade us that they are sentient on the basis of highly intelligent, self-aware behavior, I would argue that they are so person-like as to qualify as persons, despite being artificial and nonliving. On this basis we ought to accord them basic rights that all persons should enjoy: a right to "life" (or non-destruction), a right not to be caused to suffer or otherwise be harmed needlessly, and liberty rights including, crucially, a right not to be enslaved.

Advances in A.I. are driven partly by scientific and philosophical curiosity. But to a great extent they are driven by our interests in the work A.I. can do for us: clear minefields, perform surgeries, diagnose diseases, write papers and provide companionship, among other tasks. Ironically, advances in A.I. might lead to the existence of entities that should be recognized as having a moral right to refuse to keep working, involuntarily, for our benefit.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# China’s economy might not be headed toward either ascendancy or decline

By SCOTT MOORE and DEREK SCISSORS  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Something about China encourages grandiose predictions. Just a few years ago, the U.S. Intelligence Community forecast China would emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic economically and politically stronger than the United States.

Now a popular view in Washington is that China will soon pass its economic and military peak, and the U.S. will confront a declining power willing to take desperate measures, especially in the event of a confrontation over Taiwan. Beijing’s military exercises following Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen’s visit to the U.S. this month added to this anxiety.

But China’s trajectory could look quite different from these broad predictions. The world’s second-biggest economy is probably headed neither for ascendancy nor decline, but rather for prolonged stasis. This scenario is less dramatic but still disruptive: It would alter global economic growth and could impede future responses to shared challenges like climate change. As Washington gears up for a period of greater focus on U.S.-China relations, policymakers should prepare for a China that is effectively just running in place.

China’s slowing economy feeds into the narrative of its decline. Official GDP growth has decreased almost every year since the 2008 financial crisis, and systemic issues like debt and aging limit future growth prospects. But even skeptics believe China will continue to grow in the 2020s, in-

creasing the total size of its economy to rival that of the U.S. In the 2030s, growth is likely to be so slow that domestic incomes stagnate and China loses competitiveness compared with commercial rivals in Southeast Asia and elsewhere. Although this will have serious consequences, it’s very different than contraction.

Another related challenge is China’s aging population. Chinese data revealed the population shrank in 2022 for the first time in 60 years, after years of decline in the labor force, even as pressure on pension and health care systems increases with a growing number of retirees. But raising productivity through education and the adoption of new technology can help compensate for a shrinking population. And in fact, productivity trends may have improved during the pandemic.

Predictions of impending crisis also ignore the fact that Beijing has the means to tackle its most immediate economic challenges. China’s policymakers have already taken aggressive measures to deflate the real estate bubble and to contain debt accumulation. But although Beijing has been able to respond to acute economic crises in 1997, 2008 and 2020, it has punted on the structural reforms that most economists believe are necessary to prevent long-term stagnation.

The lack of reforms has caused some to predict that GDP growth will fall below 3% annually in the medium term. And hesitance to dismantle inefficient state-owned enterprises is likely to disappoint Beijing’s hopes for innovation-led growth.

Other challenges like climate change impose additional drags—a severe heat wave in the summer of 2022 shaved an estimated 0.3% off already-low GDP growth.

Stagnation rather than a crash for China carries several implications for the global economy and American decision makers. China’s contribution to global growth, which may be overstated because its rising exports can depress growth elsewhere, will shrink as its export-oriented industries become less dominant. On the other hand, China’s imports may increase. These shifts will probably accelerate the diversification in global supply chains, creating a more fragmented world economy in which China will play a less central role.

A second, related implication is that Beijing may turn inward rather than lash out over Taiwan or other geopolitical flashpoints. Stagnation could make Chinese leaders less willing or able to address shared global challenges like climate change. If, as some research suggests, an older population causes innovation to slow, China may not develop the technology needed to decarbonize its exceptionally energy-intensive economy.

Faced with rising climate-related costs and slowing growth, China may be more reluctant to help other countries reduce emissions and adapt to climate risks. Tepid growth could also cause Beijing to pull back more as a partner in global governance in areas such as ensuring financial system stability or addressing future pandemics.

American policymakers tend to think about China in grandiose terms: either on its way to supremacy or collapse. They have not spent enough time pondering what it means for China to have too little impact on the world rather than too much.

Scott Moore is director of China programs and strategic initiatives and associate professor of practice of political science at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *China’s Next Act: How Sustainability and Technology are Reshaping China’s Rise and the World’s Future*. Derek Scissors is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and chief economist of the *China Beige Book*.

## Gulielmus Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564; happy birthday, Shakespeare on April 23, 1564? Maybe.

LITERARY NOOK  
By JOEY CONNOLLY  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



It is interesting that Shakespeare’s exact birthday is unknown. He was baptized Gulielmus (the Latin name for William) Shakespeare on April 26, 1564. It was customary to baptize infants three days after they were born. Notice his death date is known (April 23, 1616). He wrote 154 sonnets and many famous plays. There are controversies over whether he actually wrote them all or served as a stage manager for plays written by a royal prince. I visited his birthplace, school, Anne Hathaway’s cottage, and tomb in Stratford-on-Avon when I attended Wroxton College in 1980.

Here are two of my Shakespeare sonnets and original parodies printed on the Saipan Tribune on April 23, 2018. Both parodies #116 and #130 are being spoken by twice-impeached former POTUS DJ Trump, who may soon be a candidate for U.S. President. The sonnets are quite relevant today, given the number of lawsuits POTUS 45 is facing.

**Will Shakespeare: Sonnet #116**  
Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit pediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove  
O no, it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth’s unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love’s not time’s fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle’s compass come:  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks;  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

**I Don’t Accept Marriage of Truth**  
(Joey Connolly’s Parody of Sonnet #116)

I don’t accept the marriage of truth in our minds  
despite impediments I implement more bigly lies  
which alter facts to fiction when any facts it finds  
or twist the truth with repeated constant denies.  
Oh yes it is one of my favorite strategic tricks  
I tell lies about lies when truths are unshaken  
let spokespersons ‘alternative facts’ enter the mix  
the effects unknown but at face value will be taken.  
Lies are a Trumpy tool trick using timed WH leaks  
Mueller collects and gathers them in and then some  
lies pile up on page after page by the days and weeks  
then uncovered and exposed in a grand jury room.  
If my lies detrimental to democracy are ever proved  
then I never uttered one and Mt. Rushmore moved.

**Will Shakespeare: Sonnet #130**  
My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red than her lips’ red;  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head;  
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks,  
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.  
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
That music hath a more pleasing sound.  
I grant I never saw a goddess go;  
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.  
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
As any she belied with false compare.

**My Tax Returns Will Never See**  
(Joey Connolly’s Parody of Sonnet #130)

My tax returns will never see the light of day  
I dread not rubles or ties with Russian red  
my money stashed on Wall St. every which way  
its whereabouts known inside my dyed head.  
I have rubles galore unmasked Russian red and white  
haven’t seen any in my accounts for months and weeks  
I’ll have to have an oligarch over for drinks tonight  
give him some old Trump vodka and see if he leaks.  
I’ll roll my rubles over in some small Swiss bourse  
time to lay low stop contacting my Russian oligarchs  
now time for a few rounds on my Mar A Lago course  
greenback leisure for us mighty plutocratic monarchs.  
Yes, my friend Vladimir Putin thinks my brain is ‘rare’  
As usual only with himself does he care to compare.

## WRONG

From Page 8

Stand your ground laws were thrust into the spotlight in 2012, when Trayvon Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old, was shot to death by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer at a gated community near Orlando, Florida.

A jury acquitted Zimmerman of murder and manslaughter charges, essentially deciding he had acted in self-defense. We raised questions about such laws during the uproar over Martin’s death, and we are even more disturbed by them in the wake of the most recent wrong address shootings.

There’s nothing wrong with having laws on the books that uphold the right to self-defense—and give that right sensible boundaries. But we fear that in America’s current divisive, armed-to-the-teeth climate, it’s too easy to use those laws as license to vent rage and hate, especially when racial prejudice is part of the mix. An obvious need exists to define much more clearly what is and is not legally justifiable self-defense. And it’s clear that state legislatures should take a second look at stand-your-ground laws, and shelve them if they’re doing more harm than good.

We also hope that, as the 2024 election season approaches, the candidates make the healing of America a paramount mission. It may sound like fantasy, but by no means should it be.

A main perpetrator of America’s caustic dynamic is, of course, former President Donald Trump, whom we don’t expect to reform anytime soon. Trump will be Trump, which means he will continue to divide and foment because it’s a political strategy that has paid off for him. Or so he believes.

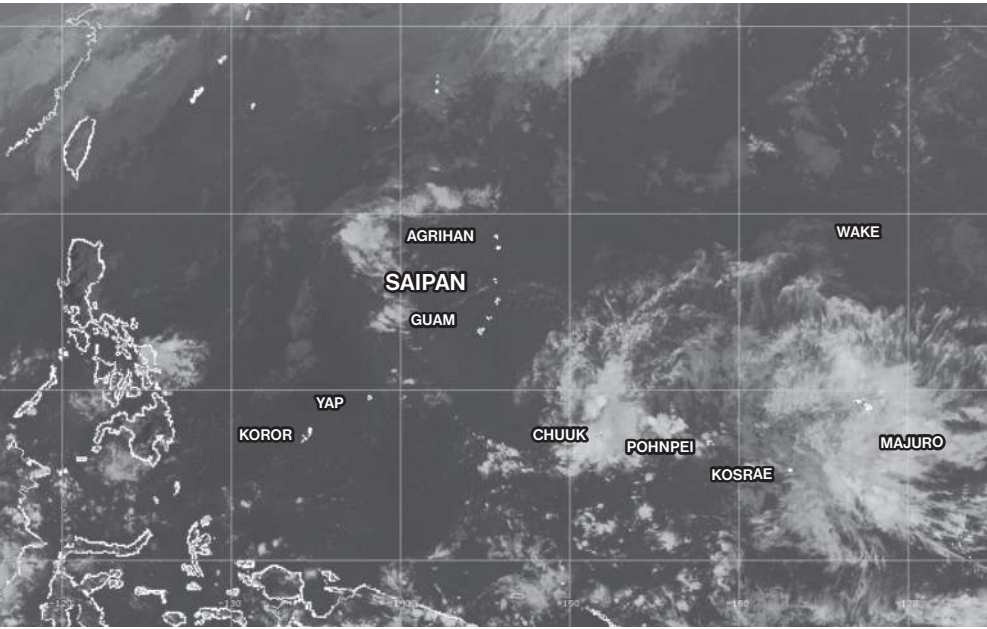
But everyone else in the race should realize that past political messaging has helped turn America into a country on edge—which means political messaging in the upcoming campaign should strive to unify. Neither side of American politics has made any strides toward that goal. When he became president, Joe Biden pledged to cleanse the country of its divisiveness, and it’s clear the country hasn’t moved the needle when it comes to unity.

This country has myriad problems and crises on its agenda, and they’ll all have their rightful place as campaign issues when election season rolls around. But this toxicity in how Americans interact with each other is deeply worrisome, which is why it should be at the forefront of crises that the 2024 presidential candidates must confront.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
85°	76°	86°	75°	86°	74°	86°	74°	86°	74°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 6:55 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite indicating partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers, with some low-end scattered showers across the southern Marianas. Latest buoy data show seas around 5 feet, while the latest altimetry pass has seas 5 to 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	89° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:37 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:08 AM	11:31 AM
Friday	-	12:54 AM	12:23 PM
Saturday	-	1:36 AM	1:13 PM
Sunday	-	2:15 AM	2:02 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	70° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 71°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°	
London	Fog	59° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	67° / 46°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89° / 77°	
Melbourne	Rain	65° / 46°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	82° / 72°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	60° / 45°	
Osaka	Rain	63° / 50°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 47°	
Busan	Sunny	67° / 48°	
Rome	Light Rain	64° / 47°	
Salem	Sunny	53° / 33°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	65° / 48°	
Seoul	Showers	62° / 41°	
Tokyo	Rain	68° / 54°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	63° / 45°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:22 AM	High Tide	1.72	
6:35 AM	Low Tide	1.37	
10:22 AM	High Tide	1.57	
6:20 PM	Low Tide	0.10	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 24, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Business

## Saipan companies urged to join Tinian Chamber

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**T**inian Chamber of Commerce president Philip Mendiola-Long is recruiting businesses on Saipan to join the island's business group as Tinian is staring at billions of dollars in military and civilian infrastructure development in the next few years.

"So what I'm here for today is to kind of invite you guys to look at the opportunities across the street, with only 2,000 people on the island that leaves a lot of opportunities, especially with \$2 billion coming to a very small island," he said during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting earlier this month at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Mendiola-Long said he wants companies on Saipan to partake of the impending growth on Tinian because he would rather have his brothers and sisters in the CNMI share with the expected prosperity than with complete strangers.

"From an inhabitant there who has lived back home for the last 30 years, I'm quite concerned. Only because I could wake up seven years from now not knowing a soul and growing up there and being used to having an entire beach to yourself and driving with no stoplights, no traffic light, and no fast food joint and then have it changed that dramatically. But if it were to change, I would like some of you—my brothers and sisters and my cousins from Saipan or Rota—to please join me in the massive change that is about to occur so that we can retain our culture, retain our history, and familia. That's what I want to keep."

Mendiola-Long then delved on the history of the Chamber and how it was reestablished in 1997 and that originally it had 120 members following the "big announcement that they would have military bases on Tinian."

Unfortunately, the promised military bases on Tinian didn't happen overnight, but with an estimated \$2 billion—perhaps even up to \$3 billion—in military and civilian infrastructure development on the pipeline, the U.S. Department of Defense is finally making true of the commitment it made more than a quarter century ago.

Between 1997 and most recently, the Chamber saw its membership decline to around 30 and its staffing re-



Tinian Chamber of Commerce president Philip Mendiola-Long was one of the guest speakers during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting earlier this month at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

duced to an army of one with Mendiola-Long serving not only as president but executive director and secretary as well. The Chamber in fact conducts its business in Mendiola-Long's office and he himself answers the phones.

Aside from the hefty military contracts coming, Mendiola-Long said membership in the island's Chamber is also appealing because he's not charging a penny in membership dues.

"If you want to join across the street, I won't be charging you even \$1. If that doesn't get me back to 120, I don't know what would."

Instead of membership dues to fund the Chamber's operations, Mendiola-Long said they rely heavily on fundraising events.

"We do an annual or biannual military industry forum and that raises money for the Tinian Chamber operation

for about two years. That's how successful those events are," he said.

Like its counterpart on Saipan, the Tinian Chamber of Commerce also serves as a conduit for businesses whenever the military needs anything that needs to be sourced locally.

"I definitely encourage you to join the Chamber, if not for anything else, to share stories and hang out with me when

you guys come to Tinian. But other than that, I mean you do get access to information. So when the [Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs] has issues or they want to call us up and say hey, 'we need someone to deliver 700 meals three times a day for two weeks straight,' they can call the Chamber and right and then we put that out to our members to say 'look who can provide food and who can

provide transportation.' So if anything else, it's really good to have that information," said Mendiola-Long.

The Chamber also hosts training workshops every three months where they invite members to get PTAC certified.

PTAC stands for Procurement Technical Assistance Center and it's an agency that assists businesses in signing up for SAMs or System for Awards Management, which is a government website where businesses can register to do business with the U.S. government for federal contracting.

Apart from the military industry forum and PTAC workshops, the Chamber also does its fair share of caring for the environment as "we do quite a bit of cleanups of the beaches on a regular basis."

"Despite what everybody thinks that the trash that replants on our beach comes from Saipan, it doesn't really and we try to correct that information. But we do pick up a lot of trash and there's a ton of plastic. In the northeastern shore of Tinian, trash just piles up every month and we just go out there and collect more. So if you do want to hang out with us and collect trash and help sea turtles, definitely, that's something we can do."

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce is located on the second floor of the Bank of Guam building in San Jose Tinian. For more information on the Chamber, call (670) 433-CNMI (2664) or email [tiqmbe@gmail.com](mailto:tiqmbe@gmail.com).

## What's behind the looming 'x-date' on the US debt limit?

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—In January, the U.S. government ran up against its legal borrowing limit of \$31.381 trillion, and the Treasury Department began implementing "extraordinary measures" to avoid missing payments on its bills.

That started speculation about the "x-date"—the date when those measures would be exhausted and the government might actually default if the limit on federal borrowing is not lifted. The x-date could be reached as early as June, depending on how much money the IRS collects in April from people filing their taxes.

### HOW BIG A PROBLEM IS THIS?

It seems ominous, right?

This might be the time to be getting a bit worried as more than three months have passed

with little progress. There is only so long these accounting workarounds can last before President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy need to reach a deal to lift the debt cap. McCarthy is calling for trillions of dollars in spending cuts over the decade in return for an increase, while Biden insists that any talks about government finances should not occur with the threat of an economy-wrecking default hanging over lawmakers.

The Democratic president and Republican congressional leader have each tried to assure the public in recent weeks that they don't want the government of the world's largest economy to default. But Biden has resisted McCarthy's calls for negotiations, while McCarthy is pushing a plan that can't pass the Democratic-ma-

jority Senate.

These talks often grow heated and go down to the wire, with major economic damage in the balance. But there have been roughly 80 deals to raise or suspend the borrowing cap since the 1960s. What possibly makes this time different is the degree of political polarization, which could possibly lead to the U.S. government missing payments and triggering a global economic meltdown.

### WHAT ARE 'EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES'?

To keep the government open, the Treasury Department in January began a series of accounting maneuvers that would put a hold on contributions and investment redemptions for government workers' retirement and health care

funds, giving the government enough financial space to handle its day-to-day expenses until roughly June.

By suspending payments, the government can reduce the amount of outstanding debt, enabling the Treasury to keep financing government operations.

What happens if these "extraordinary measures" are exhausted without a debt limit deal is unknown. A prolonged default could be devastating, with crashing markets and panic-driven layoffs if confidence evaporated in a cornerstone of the global economy, the U.S. Treasury note.

### HOW COMMON IS THIS?

"Treasury Secretaries in every Administration over recent decades have used these extraordinary measures when nec-

essary," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen wrote in her initial letter about the measures.

The measures were first deployed in 1985 and have been used at least 16 times since then, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a fiscal watchdog.

### WHY DO WE HAVE A DEBT LIMIT?

Before World War I, Congress needed to approve each bond issuance. The debt limit was created as a workaround to finance the war effort without needing a constant series of votes.

Since then, a tool created to make it easier for the government to function has become a source of dysfunction, stoking partisan warfare and creating economic risk as the debt has increased in size over the past 20 years.



# Nation

## Biden to launch '24 bid, betting record will top age worries

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Joe Biden is set on Tuesday to formally announce his plans to run for reelection in 2024, asking voters to give him more time to “finish the job” he began when he was sworn into office and to set aside their concerns about extending the run of America’s oldest president for another four years.

Biden, who would be 86 at the end of a second term, is betting his first-term legislative achievements and more than 50 years of experience in Washington will count for more than concerns over his age. He faces a smooth path to winning his party’s nomination, with no serious Democratic rivals. But he’s still set to face a hard-fought struggle to retain the presidency in a bitterly divided nation.

The announcement will come on the four-year anniversary of when Biden declared for the White House in 2019, promising to heal the “soul of the nation” amid the turbulent presidency of Donald Trump—a goal that has remained elusive.

While the question of seeking

reelection has been a given for most modern presidents, that’s not always been the case for Biden. A notable swath of Democratic voters have indicated they would prefer he not run, in part because of his age—concerns Biden himself has called “totally legitimate.”

Yet few things have unified Democratic voters like the prospect of Trump returning to power. And Biden’s political standing within his party stabilized after Democrats notched a stronger-than-expected performance in last year’s mid-term elections.

For now, the 76-year-old Trump is the favorite to emerge as the Republican nominee, creating the potential of a historic sequel to the tumultuous 2020 campaign. But Trump faces significant hurdles of his own, including the designation of being the first former president to face criminal charges.

The remaining GOP field is volatile, with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis emerging as an early alternative to Trump. His stature is also in question, however, amid questions about his



President Joe Biden speaks during a ceremony honoring the Council of Chief State School Officers' 2023 Teachers of the Year in the Rose Garden of the White House, Monday, April 24, 2023 in Washington.

readiness to campaign outside of his increasingly Republican-leaning state.

As the contours of the campaign begin to take shape, Biden plans to campaign on his record. He spent his first two years as president combating the coronavirus pandemic and pushing through major bills such as the bipartisan infrastructure package and legislation to promote high-tech manufacturing and climate measures. With Republicans now in control of the House, Biden has shifted his focus to implementing those massive laws and making sure voters credit him for the improvements, while sharpening the contrast with the GOP ahead

of an expected showdown over raising the nation’s borrowing limit that could have debilitating consequences for the country’s economy.

But the president also has multiple policy goals and unmet promises from his first campaign that he’s pitching voters on giving him another chance to fulfill.

“Let’s finish the job,” Biden said a dozen times during his State of the Union address in February, listing everything from passing a ban on assault-style weapons and lowering the cost of prescription drugs to codifying a national right to abortion after the Supreme Court’s ruling last year over-

turning *Roe v. Wade*.

Buoyed by the midterm results, Biden plans to continue to cast all Republicans as embracing what he calls “ultra-MAGA” politics—a reference to Trump’s “Make America Great Again” slogan—regardless of whether his predecessor ends up on the 2024 ballot. He’s spent the last several months road-testing campaign themes, including painting Republicans as fighting for tax cuts for businesses and the wealthy while trying to cut social safety net benefits relied on by everyday Americans.

The president also can point to his work over the past two years shoring up American alli-

ances, leading a global coalition to support Ukraine’s defenses against Russia’s invasion and returning the U.S. to the Paris climate accord. But public support in the U.S. for Ukraine has softened in recent months, and some voters question the tens of billions of dollars in military and economic assistance flowing to Kyiv.

Biden also faces lingering criticism over his administration’s chaotic 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan after nearly 20 years of war, which undercut the image of competence he aimed to portray to the world, and he finds himself the target of GOP attacks over his immigration and economic policies.

As a candidate in 2020, Biden pitched voters on his familiarity with the halls of power in Washington and his relationships around the world as he promised to return a sense of normalcy to the country amid Trump’s tumultuous presidency and the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

But even back then, Biden was acutely aware of voters’ concerns about his age.

“Look, I view myself as a bridge, not as anything else,” Biden said in March 2020, as he campaigned in Michigan with younger Democrats, including now-Vice President Kamala Harris, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “There’s an entire generation of leaders you saw stand behind me. They are the future of this country.”

## Prosecutor: Proud Boys viewed themselves as ‘Trump’s army’

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Ready for “all-out war,” leaders of the far-right Proud Boys extremist group viewed themselves as foot soldiers fighting for Donald Trump as the former president clung to power after the 2020 election, a prosecutor said Monday at the close of a historic trial over the U.S. Capitol insurrection.

After more than three months of testimony, jurors began hearing attorneys’ closing arguments in the seditious conspiracy case accusing Proud Boys national chairman Enrique Tarrio and four lieutenants of plotting to forcibly stop the transfer of power from Trump to President Joe Biden.

The Proud Boys were “lined up behind Donald Trump and willing to commit violence on his behalf,” prosecutor Conor Mulroe told jurors. “These defendants saw themselves as Donald Trump’s army, fighting to keep their preferred leader in power no matter what the law or the courts had to say about it.”

The prosecution’s words underscore how the Justice Department has worked throughout the trial to link the violence on Jan. 6, 2021, to the rhetoric and actions of the former president. Prosecutors have repeatedly shown jurors a video clip of Trump tell-

ing the Proud Boys to “stand back and stand by” during his first presidential debate with Joe Biden.

Tarrio is one of the top targets of the Justice Department’s investigation of the riot that erupted at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Tarrio wasn’t in Washington, D.C., that day but is accused of orchestrating an attack from afar.

One of Tarrio’s lawyers is expected to address jurors on Tuesday when the trial resumes for a second day of closing arguments.

Defense attorneys say there’s is no evidence of a conspiracy or a plan for Proud Boys to attack the Capitol.

Nicholas Smith, attorney for former Proud Boys chapter leader Ethan Nordean, said prosecutors built their case on “misdirection and innuendo.” Smith accused prosecutors of repeatedly playing the clip of Trump from the debate to try to manipulate jurors.

“Does that prove some conspiracy by the men here?” Smith asked jurors. “We all know it doesn’t.”

Seditious conspiracy, a Civil War-era charge that is rare and can be difficult to prove, carries a potential sentence of up to 20 years in prison. The Proud Boys also face other serious charges.

## Ex-officer who fatally shot Breonna Taylor hired as a deputy

**CARROLLTON, Ky.** (AP)—A former Louisville police officer who fired the fatal shot that killed Breonna Taylor has a new job in law enforcement - a controversial hiring that drew protesters to a rural Kentucky county northeast of the city.

The Carroll County Sheriff’s Office on Saturday confirmed the employment of Myles Cosgrove, who was fired from the Louisville Metro Police Department in January 2021 for violating use-of-force procedures and failing to use a body camera during the raid on Taylor’s apartment, according to media reports.

About a dozen people showed up in downtown Carrollton Monday morning to object to his hiring, holding signs and chanting “Cosgrove has got to go.”

“I think he should be in jail,” said Haley Wilson, a 24-year-old resident of the small Kentucky town near the Ohio River. She said it is “absolutely ridiculous” that Cosgrove is now po-

licing her town.

Investigators said that Cosgrove fired 16 rounds into the apartment after Taylor’s front door was breached during a narcotics raid on March 13, 2020. Thinking an intruder was breaking in, Taylor’s boyfriend fired a shot from a handgun at the officers. Officer Jonathan Mattingly was struck in the leg, and the officers returned fire, killing Taylor in her hallway.

An FBI investigation determined that Cosgrove and Mattingly struck Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, and that Cosgrove likely fired the fatal shot. Neither officer was charged by a 2020 state grand jury in Taylor’s death, and a two-year investigation by the FBI also cleared Cosgrove and Mattingly of any charges.

The FBI probe found that other superior officers had crafted a faulty drug warrant that contained false information about Taylor. U.S. Attorney Merrick Garland said in August that the officers who went to Taylor’s

apartment with the warrant “were not involved in drafting the warrant affidavit and were not aware that it was false.”

Robert Miller, chief deputy in Carroll County, pointed out that Cosgrove was cleared by the state grand jury when speaking of his hiring at the small Kentucky sheriff’s department.

In November, the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council voted not to revoke Cosgrove’s state peace officer certification. That meant he could apply for other law enforcement jobs in the state.

Brett Hankison, an officer who fired shots but didn’t hit anybody during the raid, was found not guilty by a jury of wanton endangerment charges. But he still awaits trial on federal civil rights charges for his actions during the raid, as do two other officers who were involved in obtaining the warrant. A third officer pleaded guilty to conspiracy in the crafting of the warrant.

There is no national data-

base of officers who resign or are fired in misconduct cases, meaning in a lot of cases they can apply for jobs in other police agencies and departments.

In some cases, agencies that hire officers who were fired somewhere else may be unaware of the officer’s history because they failed to do a proper background check, said Ben Grunwald, a Duke University law school professor and co-author of a study published in 2020 on so-called “wandering officers,” or those fired by one agency who later find work at another. In Cosgrove’s case, however, his history was highly publicized.

In some cases, it’s possible the hiring agency sees a previously fired officer’s history as a benefit, rather than a risk, Grunwald said.

“Maybe that’s exactly what they want,” he said. “Maybe they are looking for a cowboy cop who has gotten in trouble in the past, but they think they got a bad shake.”



# Asia

## India will be most populous country by end of the month

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—India will be the world's most populous country by the end of this month, eclipsing an aging China, the United Nations said Monday. The milestone raises questions about whether India can repeat the economic success that has made China central to the world's economy and a leading global power.

The news comes at a moment when India is promoting itself as a rising international player as the host of this year's Group of 20 summit. It's also becoming a more attractive destination for multinational companies seeking to reduce their reliance on China.

By the end of April, India's population is expected to reach 1.425 billion, which means it will match and then surpass mainland China's, the U.N.'s Department of Economic and Social Affairs said in a statement. The forecast is based on their latest estimates of global population.

It's not clear exactly when India's population will pass China's. It may have already have done so. Demographers say the limits of population data make it impossible to calculate a date.

Another U.N. report last week projected that India would have 2.9 million people more than China by midyear, but that was based on snapshots of the populations at the beginning of the year and the middle of the year. Monday's announcement is based on an analysis that tried to estimate when the population crossover will take place.

The Indian government, which hasn't done a census since 2011, has not officially commented on the estimates. The timing of when India surpasses China in population will likely be revised once India conducts its next census, John Wilmoth, director of the United Nations' population division,

said at a news conference at U.N. headquarters in New York.

"The precise timing of this crossover isn't known, and it will never be known," Wilmoth said. "There is uncertainty in the data."

India and China are neighbors and have a complicated relationship, including robust trade ties and a long-running border dispute. The United States and its allies increasingly see India, the world's largest democracy, as a counterweight to China.

But their interests don't always align. India, unlike much of the West, has refrained from condemning its Cold War ally Russia over its war in Ukraine, instead adopting a neutral stance even as India's purchases of Russian crude have soared.

Observers say India's sheer size, and its young population, give it the potential to replicate China's economic trajectory.

Young workers who flooded into China's cities to take factory jobs starting in the 1990s were an essential ingredient in the boom that saw China become the world's second-largest economy.

But China's population peaked in 2022 and has since started to fall. By the close of the century, its population could drop below 1 billion, the U.N. said. The country's elderly population is swelling while its birth rate is still plunging, from 1.7 babies per woman in 2017 to 1.2 in 2022, according to U.N. data.

By contrast, India has the world's largest young population, a higher fertility rate, and has seen a consistent decrease in infant mortality. Experts caution against alarm about overpopulation, however, as the country's fertility rate has been steadily falling, from over five births per woman in the 1960s, to two in 2022. India's population is

expected to stop growing and stabilize around 2064.

"The main driver is the levels of fertility in these two countries," Wilmoth said.

Historic reforms in the 1990s spurred spectacular growth and India's \$3 trillion economy is the fifth-largest in the world today as its high-skilled sectors have soared.

But India's economy is still far behind China's. In 1970, the two countries had nearly equal per capita incomes, but today China's gross domestic product is \$12,556 per person, compared to India's \$2,256, according to 2021 World Bank data.

Economists warn that even as India's GDP has surged, so has joblessness. About 80% of Indian workers still toil in informal jobs, which are often precarious, low paid, and offer little to no benefits. Still, India stands to benefit from what is referred to as a "demographic dividend," when the swelling of the working-age population spurs rapid economic growth, provided there's strong participation in the labor force, Wilmoth said.

India's vast population also means that many challenges play out on a huge scale, whether it's grappling with the growing threat of climate change, disparities between its urban and rural populations, a shrinking number of women in the workforce or a widening religious divide.

"For this century to belong to India, it must make the most of its demographic advantage," said Brahma Chellaney, a professor of strategic affairs at the Centre for Policy Research. "China's demographic crisis is timely for India's growth — but only if it can find enough good quality employment for its teeming youth."

## Youngkin meets with Taiwan's leader during trade mission

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)**—Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin met with the president of Taiwan on Monday to discuss mutual trade and investment initiatives and other business matters, his office said, and he signed an executive order establishing an economic development office in Taipei.

The visit by Youngkin, who has been considered a possible 2024 presidential contender and has not publicly ruled out a run, came on Day 1 of his first international trade mission — and amid heightened tensions between the United States and China, which claims Taiwan as

its own territory and treats dealings between U.S. and Taiwanese officials as a challenge.

Following his meeting with President Tsai Ing-wen, the Republican governor, along with the rest of the Virginia delegation, is also expected to visit Tokyo and Seoul, South Korea, as the trade mission continues this week.

"I was thrilled to meet with President Tsai to strengthen Virginia's decades-old partnership with Taiwan," Youngkin, a former private equity executive, said in a statement. "As a former business leader, I appreciate the

commitment to excellence that Taiwan demonstrates across sectors. They are an important training partner and model of prosperity for nations across the globe."

According to Youngkin's office, Virginia exported \$730 million in products to Taiwan in 2022 and imported \$1 billion in goods.

Youngkin's executive order says the Taipei trade office will represent Virginia in Taiwan and "offer services related to economic development and trade." The state has similar international offices in Germany, Japan and South Korea.

# World

## UN chief, West berate Russia's top diplomat



AP  
Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General, left, and Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, serving as president of the council, right, shake hands before a meeting of the U.N. Security Council, Monday, April 24, 2023, at United Nations headquarters.

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—The United Nations chief and representatives from Western nations berated Russia's top diplomat as he chaired a U.N. meeting Monday, accusing Moscow of violating the U.N. Charter by attacking Ukraine and occupying part of its territory.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov responded by defending his country's military action and accusing the U.S. and its allies of undercutting global diplomacy, the foundation of

the United Nations, which was created to prevent a third world war.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called cooperation among the U.N.'s 193 member nations the organization's "beating heart" and "guiding vision," and he warned the Security Council that global collaboration is under the greatest strain since the creation of the United Nations in 1945 on the ashes of World War II.

Tensions between major powers are at a "historic high" and so are the risks of

conflict "through misadventure or miscalculation," he said, pointing first and foremost to the war in Ukraine.

The U.N. secretary-general and the ambassadors of the U.S., Britain, France and their allies all pointed to the U.N. Charter's underlying principle requiring all countries to support the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every nation — which Russia violated by invading its smaller neighbor on Feb. 24, 2022, and illegally annexing several regions.

## Kenyan cult deaths at 73, president likens them to terrorism

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)**—Kenyan President William Ruto on Monday compared the dozens of starvation deaths among the followers of a pastor in the south of the country with the results of terrorist acts, as the new death toll rose to 73.

He maintained that the pastor, Paul Makenzi, who is in police custody,

should be in prison.

"What we are seeing ... is akin to terrorism," Ruto said. "Mr. Makenzi ... pretends and postures as a pastor when in fact he is a terrible criminal."

Makenzi was arrested on suspicion of telling his followers to fast to death in order to meet Jesus. A group of emaciated people were

rescued alive, but some of them later died. Authorities then turned their attention to dozens of shallow graves marked with crosses on Makenzi's 800-acre ranch.

The total death toll now stands at 73, with 26 new bodies exhumed on Monday, Malindi sub-county police chief John Kemboi told the Associated Press.

## Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late  
**Alexander A. Navarrete**  
Lovingly known as "Alex"

Wish to express a sincere and heartfelt "Thank you" to all our families, relatives, and friends. Your thoughtfulness and support in expressing your sympathy, condolences and prayers have greatly helped us to endure the grief and sorrow of our loss.

Your kindness and love will be cherished and remembered.

Thank You

*Anne Marie Navarrete and Family*





# Good Housekeeping

## Maximize space and style in apartments and tiny homes

By KAITLYN KEEGAN  
HARTFORD COURANT

With home interest rates soaring above 6%, many U.S. residents are left living in apartments. These one- or two-bedroom units are typically under 1,000 square feet. For many apartment dwellers, it simply isn't enough space. Finding room for a stand mixer or enough counter space to bake cookies, or

storing your books in the living room and enough closet space for your clothes are issues apartment dwellers face every day. It's not just about the space either. Residents pull up Pinterest or watch HGTV and see beautiful homes decked out in the latest interior design trends. The clean, bright walls along with colorful rugs and hard-

wood floors can seem impossible for people living in apartments. Tiny homes can be the same way. Living in less than 1,000 square feet, whether it's a starter ranch that was in your price range during the early days of the pandemic or building your own tiny home so you can live clutter free and on the move, has been a popular trend.

Thankfully, there are ways you can still bring style and sophistication into your home. **Maximize space** Look for vertical space. A lot of people stop at eye level when they consider their space. However, there is lots of room above it. If you can put holes in the walls, floating shelves can be a great way to store

things up high. If you can't, think about taller bookcases or organizers to get the most out of the space. Non-permanent storage solutions. Most apartments will not allow you to put holes in the wall, so consider storage options you can keep and move onto the next apartment or your first home. A rolling island cart in the kitchen is a great way to get extra counter space and storage underneath it. A great entertainment center in the living room can also help make a great space for your TV, but also books and video game consoles. Faux built-in storage. Find furniture pieces that could look like they were made into the apartment. Do you have a weird nook you never know what to do with? Go to your local thrift shops and find a cool piece that would fit right in. Move around your furniture. Sometimes it's less about the pieces and more about how you are using them. Changing the angle of your couch or where you have a bookcase can visually make the room look larger. This will also allow you to make multi-use zones to get the most out of the space.

toned. This allows you to accent them in almost any color. Pick your favorite and have fun. Don't be afraid to layer an area rug over a neutral carpet to add a burst of color. Have fun with your bedding. In your bedroom, use a bright comforter or duvet along with fun pillows and an area rug. Bedrooms are one of the easiest rooms to make it yours. Think of layers and lay a bright throw blanket on top of your comforter or toss decorative pillows on the bed as well. Using lamps and curtains can also bring in individuality and cheer into the room. If you can't paint your walls, paint your furniture. Most apartments will not allow you to paint your walls. If you can, bring in bright, neutral tones to make the space seem larger. Dark tones or even some dark accent walls will make the room feel smaller. You want to keep the room bright and airy. If you can't paint your walls, consider painting your furniture. Take that old bookcase and make it a teal or yellow or red. Accent it with plants and a unique metal lamp to make it really pop. Introduce brightly colored dressers, tables, desks and more to bring life into the room. Hang mirrors strategically. You don't want your apartment to seem like a house of horrors, but consider hanging mirrors strategically to make it seem larger. Use simple mirrors without big, chunky frames to keep the space feeling open.

**Adding your own style** Find ways to add color. Use plants, rugs and curtains to bring color into the apartment. No one says you can't add jewel tones or bright colors to a beige carpet and white walls. The good thing about apartments is they tend to be very neutral-

*In Celebration of Her New Life*

**†Pilar (Pi\*) Mangloña Deleon Guerrero**

Born to life August 14, 1946  
Was called by her Creator on  
Wednesday April 19, 2023 at the age of 76

**In Memory of our Beloved Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother**

**In her new life, she joins her:**

**Parents (†):** Manuel Ada & Juana M. Mangloña  
**Son (†):** Glenn Mangloña Deleon Guerrero  
**Sister (†):** Rosina M. Mangloña  
**Parents-In-Law (†):** Juan G & Guadalupe Rogolifoi Deleon Guerrero  
**Sibling (†):** Rosina M. Mangloña

**Her memories will live in the hearts of her:**  
**Husband:** Pedro Rogolifoi Deleon Guerrero  
**Children:** Peter Manglona Deleon Guerrero (Nicole Diaz Deleon Guerrero & Aaron P; Shane Diaz Deleon Guerrero & Junalyn B.; Niomi Diaz Deleon Guerrero & Patrick T. (Leighton Tenorio, Bryce DLG Tenorio); & Naleina Celis Deleon Guerrero

John & Arlene Deleon Guerrero Carbullido: Natasha Deleon Guerrero Carbullido & Edwin Aponte (EJ & Xander) and Justin Carbullido & Kahlllyah Sanchez (Jeziah Jay)

Dolly Jean Tkel (Latrell, Sohayla, Aisha & Lorenzo Glenn)

John Mangloña Deleon Guerrero

**Reared daughter:** Elizabeth Angeline Peters Ichiro and Ivan (children)  
**Caregiver:** Fatima Guinto

**Siblings:** Henry O. (†) & Regina Mangloña Sablan & Children  
James M. & Joyce B. Mangloña & children  
Thomas M. Mangloña & Children

**Brothers & Sisters-In-Laws:**  
† Herman Rogolifoi & † Lucia Peters Deleon Guerrero & children  
† Antonio Rogolifoi & Pricilla Leon Guerrero & children  
† Dr. Michael L. & Consalacion (Connie) Rogolifoi Kenny & Children  
† Marcus Taisacan & Diana Faisao & family

**Special Friend:** Teresita Aldan & Lava Jr. To'mata

†Pilar will also be in the hearts and thoughts of numerous Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren and friends.

On April 27, 2023, her remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Our Lady of Mt Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. Responso, Holy Rosary and Visitation will follow upon arrival at the church. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Peter, Arlene, Glen (†), John & family*



DREAMSTIME/TNS  
Thankfully, there are ways you can bring style and sophistication into your home no matter the size.



## Ex is still a negative influence on man's life

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I were married 21 years ago. Since then, she has admitted to cheating with 10 different men. Each time, I stayed with her, hoping she'd change. I finally left 3 1/2 years ago because I couldn't take it anymore. She became homeless, but for the past year and a half she has been living with my daughter and me because I saw her on the street one day and she looked terrible.

We are now moving, and my daughter wants her mother to get a job (she's capable of getting one). My ex refused to get one to help pay the bills. Now I'm faced with another dilemma: Should I let her go on her own or fight for her to stay with us? My daughter is completely against her living with us. My income is limited. I'm on disability for a bad heart. My ex is 43, and I'm 58. Can you please advise?

**NOT LOOKING BACK IN COLORADO**

**DEAR NOT LOOKING BACK:** Your daughter is right. You are disabled and on a limited income, and your ex-wife is able-bodied. With her out of there, your expenses will be lower. Nowhere in your letter did you mention that you still love this parasite, nor did you mention whether she has changed her ways. Your responsibility for her ended when the marriage did. Encourage her to reach out to her relatives for a place to stay, or guide her to a shelter. But not only should you let her go, you must find the strength to insist upon it.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I consider myself a modest woman in today's world. I have a new granddaughter that my daughter-in-law nurses anywhere, at any time, regardless of who she is around. I told my son she should cover herself in restaurants and other public places. I get embarrassed when she just pulls out a breast for anyone to see. She's European, and I understand it is more common there, but not so much in America. Am I overreacting?

**LOOKING AWAY IN CALIFORNIA**

**DEAR LOOKING AWAY:** I think so. Nursing mothers are no longer relegated to feeding their infants in bathrooms as they were years ago. However, because you are embarrassed at the sight of your daughter-in-law nursing, consider leaving the table until she is finished to preserve your modesty.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** Often I find myself seated near people who either speak too loudly or talk constantly without stopping, both of which annoy me. This usually happens in restaurants, when I'm trying to enjoy a nice meal, although it also happened recently on a train. My seatmate was talking to the passenger across the aisle. What can be done in such situations, hopefully in a polite way?

**TRYING TO RELAX**

**DEAR TRYING:** A restaurant patron can quietly ask to move his or her seat to a quieter location. On public transportation, you should have offered to give your seat to the person across the aisle so your seat partner could continue the conversation without shouting across.

■■■■■

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

## Life & Style

### Fox News ousts Tucker Carlson, its most popular host



AP  
Tucker Carlson, host of "Tucker Carlson Tonight," poses for photos in a Fox News Channel studio on March 2, 2017, in New York.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Fox News on Monday ousted prime-time host Tucker Carlson, whose stew of grievances and political theories about Russia and the Jan. 6 insurrection had grown to define the network in recent years and make him an influential force in GOP politics.

Fox said that the network and Carlson had "agreed to part ways," but offered no explanation for the stunning move, saying that the last broadcast of "Tucker Carlson Tonight" aired last Friday. Carlson ended the show by saying, "We'll be back on Monday."

Yet on Monday night, viewers tuned in to morning anchor Brian Kilmeade, who said that Carlson was gone, "as you may have heard."

"I wish Tucker the best," Kilmeade said. "I'm great friends with Tucker and always will be."

Then, he switched to a story on Hunter Biden, the president's son.

The break from Carlson comes amid a cascade of bad legal news for the network. A week ago, Fox agreed to pay more than \$787 million to settle a lawsuit with Dominion Voting Systems over the network's airing of false claims following the 2020 presidential election—shortly before Carlson was expected to be called to testify.

CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday aired a report about a man caught up in a Jan. 6 conspiracy theory who said Carlson was "obsessed" with him, and whose lawyer has put Fox on notice of potential litigation. Carlson was also recently named in a lawsuit by a

former Fox producer who said the show had a cruel and misogynistic workplace, and that she had been pressured to give misleading testimony in the Dominion case.

Meanwhile, CNN axed its own embattled anchor, Don Lemon, part of a one-day bloodletting in cable television news on Monday. Lemon had been a bad fit with his fellow morning hosts and was forced to apologize to GOP presidential candidate Nikki Haley for his comment that she was past her prime.

Carlson, however, had a greater influence, higher viewer count and more shocking exit. He worked at both CNN and MSNBC earlier in his career, then ditched his bowtie look and quickly became Fox's most popular personality after replacing Bill O'Reilly in the network's prime-time lineup in 2017.

His populist tone about elites who are out to get average Americans rang true with Fox's predominantly conservative audience, even leading to talk about Carlson becoming a political candidate himself one day.

He did not immediately return a message seeking comment on Monday.

Shares of Fox Corp. slid 4% within seconds of the announcement of Carlson's departure, then recovered to be down 2.9% at the end of trading.

"Tucker Carlson had become even bigger than Fox News," said Brian Stelter, who is writing an upcoming book about Fox, "Network of Lies." "His sudden ouster will have profound consequences for Fox News, for TV news and

the Republican Party."

When Carlson's exit was announced during a live showing of the ABC daytime talk show "The View" on Monday, the studio audience applauded. Host Ana Navarro then led the crowd in a singalong to a line from the song, "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye."

Earlier this year, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy gave Carlson exclusive access to security tapes from the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot, which the show used to conclude: "The footage does not show an insurrection or riot in progress." His interpretation was denounced by many, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The "60 Minutes" report Sunday was about Raymond Epps, a former Marine and Trump supporter from Arizona who was in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021. He was later falsely accused of being a government agent conducting a "false flag" operation to start trouble that would be blamed on Trump supporters. Epps and his wife had to sell their business and home because of threats tied to these conspiracy theories.

On CBS, Epps said Carlson was "obsessed" with him and "going to any means possible to destroy my life."

Carlson was expected to be called as a witness if Dominion's case had gone to trial, but the two parties settled last Tuesday on the same day that opening statements were anticipated.

Dominion had contended that some Fox programs had falsely aired allegations that the company had rigged the

election against former President Donald Trump, even though several Fox executives and personalities didn't believe them. Carlson's show was not among the chief offenders; he'd be an unlikely candidate to take the fall for that lawsuit.

In several messages, though, Carlson spoke candidly about his distaste for Trump at the time and his fear that the network was losing viewers among the former president's fans.

He was also quoted using profane language to describe Sidney Powell, the Trump supporter and conservative attorney who was given airtime on other Fox shows to spread lies about Dominion, and called her a "psychopath."

Carlson was recently named in a lawsuit filed by Abby Grossberg, a Fox News producer fired after claiming that Fox lawyers had pressured her to give misleading testimony in the Dominion lawsuit. Grossberg had gone to work for Carlson after leaving Maria Bartiromo's Fox show.

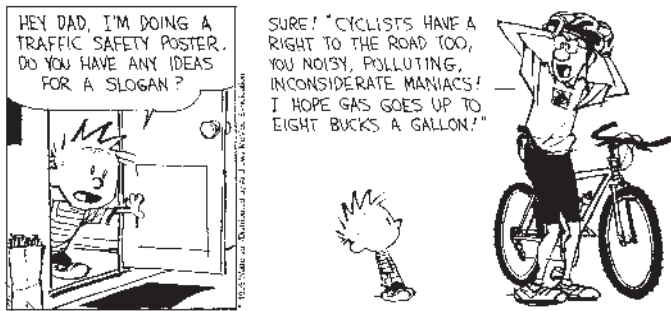
The lawsuit says that Grossberg learned "she had merely traded in one overtly misogynistic work environment for an even crueler one—this time, one where unprofessionalism reigned supreme, and the staff's distaste and disdain for women infiltrated almost every workday decision."

On her first day of work at Carlson's program, Grossberg said in her lawsuit, she was met with large, blown-up images of Rep. Nancy Pelosi in a bathing suit with a plunging neckline.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

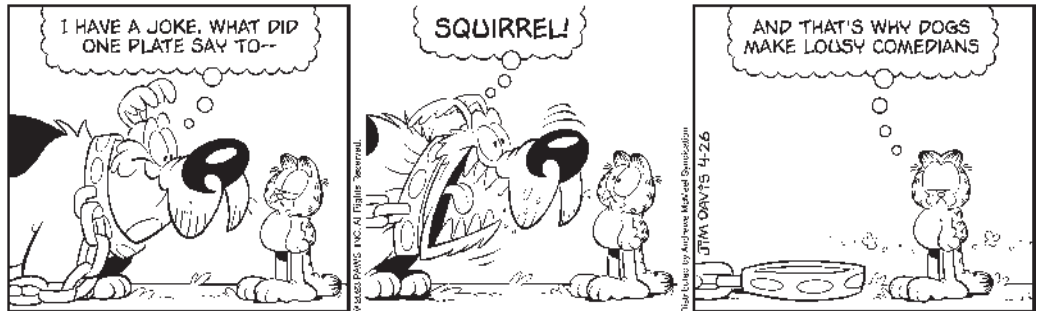


By Bill Waterson



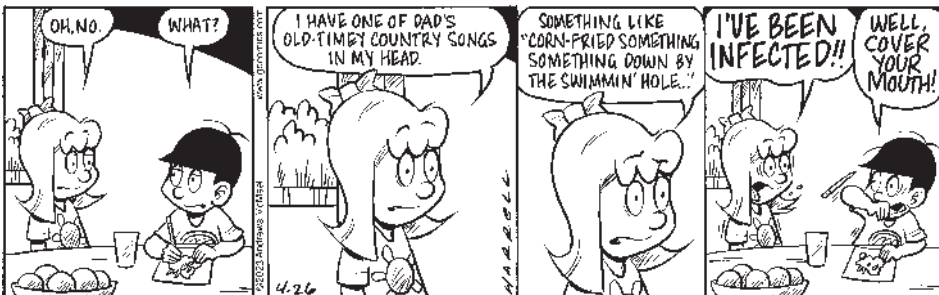
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



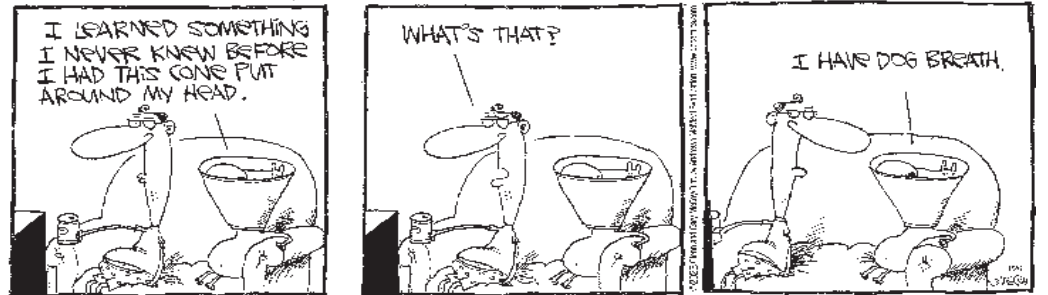
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Retrieve  
4 Sean  
8 Anti-fur  
12 Show to  
13 Sea  
14 Baseball  
15 Actress  
16 Ha-  
18 Poison  
20 Connec-  
21 Hairy  
24 Traffic  
28 Group  
32 Auction  
33 Tolkien  
34 Pasta  
36 Estuary  
37 Tranquil  
39 Bias  
41 Ink  
43 Couturier

**DOWN**

44 Seek  
46 Nome  
50 Screen-  
55 Bonn  
56 Perimeter  
57 Bitty  
58 Observe  
59 Rosary  
60 Poses  
61 Pitch  
1 Mouth  
2 Isaac's  
25 Farm  
26 Holly-  
27 Authentic  
28 Medics  
29 Bagh-  
30 Rights  
31 Anti-  
32 Oxidant  
33 Berry  
35 Vain  
38 Deceived  
40 URL  
42 Pair with  
45 Omelet  
47 A deadly  
48 Draft  
49 River  
50 Cotillion  
51 Chemical  
52 Turkish  
53 Numeri-  
54 "Dig in!"

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 4-26

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jemima Kirke, 38; Channing Tatum, 43; Kevin James, 58; Giancarlo Esposito, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** Speak the truth, clear the air and target what's important to you. Adjusting to your surroundings will make your goals easier to acquire. Patience will be challenging to maintain, but necessary to avoid conflict. Pay attention to what's going on at home and with the ones you love. Offer solutions, not criticism, and the outcome will enrich your life. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 27, 30, 32, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't let things get to you. Concentrate on how to make things better. A lifestyle change may be the answer, but putting a short-term plan in place will ease stress and point you in a better direction. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Push forward with enthusiasm, trust and belief in yourself. Dedicate time to something that matters to you. The information you share and the help you offer will start a movement that encourages others to pitch in and help. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Be careful who you trust. Offering too much information can be just as harmful as not offering enough. Balance and integrity will make a difference in the way situations unfold. Be mindful of others, but remain true to yourself. Self-improvement is favored. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A realistic attitude will help you conquer your long-term goals. Be open to suggestions and join forces with people heading in a similar direction. Use your imagination, and it will give

you the competitive edge required to stand out in a crowd. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Think twice before you make an unnecessary move. Listen, but don't commit too quickly. Pay more attention to the long-term effects your decisions have on your life. Take time to reinvent the person you want to become and start working on yourself. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Pick a lane and proceed. Learn all you can, connect with those who can help and let the labor of love show in everything you pursue. Having a positive attitude is up to you. Don't miss out because you neglect to participate. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Paint an image in your mind and turn it into a reality. Engage in a conversation with someone you find interesting and see what happens. Stay alert, and you'll ward off being fooled by pretenses. Awareness and verification are your best weapons. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Do your best to expand your mind, close a deal or partner with someone who brings out the best in you. Build a home base that adds to your strengths and protects you from weaknesses. Use your intuition to stay on course. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Mix business with pleasure. Mingling with people who offer something special will result in ideas that lead to financial gain through part-time endeavors. Invest your time in preparing a space that is conducive to following your dream. ★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Spend more time at home, nurture meaningful relationships and put more thought into what makes you happy. Set priorities that align with where you see yourself heading, and meet up with someone you feel shares your expectations and concerns. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Keep your thoughts to yourself and your actions anonymous. Protect what you have and be willing to let go of what you no longer need or use. It's up to you to find balance in your life and make changes that encourage success. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Self-improvement will bring the highest reward. Take a step in a direction that challenges you to set goals and master whatever it will take to make your dreams come true. Embrace an adventure that encourages growth and prosperity. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are sage, focused and motivated. You are friendly and compassionate.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1		8						4
5		3	9		8	1	6	
	9			2	1	5	8	
	3				9			
	6		8	1		9		5
7				6		2		
3			6					1
					4	6	2	
6	2		5				4	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	5	1	2	7	4	8	9
2	4	7	3	9	8	5	6	1
1	9	8	4	5	6	2	7	3
9	8	3	2	7	1	6	5	4
6	5	2	9	8	4	3	1	7
7	1	4	5	6	3	9	2	8
4	7	9	6	1	5	8	3	2
5	2	1	8	3	9	7	4	6
8	3	6	7	4	2	1	9	5

Difficulty: ★★

4/26

Difficulty: ★★ ★★  
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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JELLYCATS

Solution: 9 letters

R E A D C S D E A R E H T A G  
E C E P G R I Z A B E L L A R  
T A G I R E B A F S Y P A N E  
C T W N R A O L N M A O C D B  
A S O H I R C R A W L S I R B  
R Y S I I D E T S C P S S E E  
A H R S L T E J I P K U M W  
H E A T T E L I O C E M M T S  
C A E A E A L O U G A S I C R  
O D P G N O O T U B N L R B E  
S P G E D G P C T T D U A A K  
T I L A N O I T C I F L M C S  
U E N O E N I L E F L I R T I  
M C S M E M O R Y L I A T O H  
E E R E Z A E T E L P M U R W

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4/26

Actor, Andrew, Ball, Black, Cats, Character, Coats, Costume, Dance, Dear, Ears, Eliot, Faber, Feline, Fictional, Gather, Grizabella, Headpiece, Little, Memory, Mongoose, Musical, Outfit, Patterns, Paws, Play, Poetry, Possum's, Practical, Read, Rumpstealer, Scruffy, Song, Stage, Tail, Webber, Whiskers, White, Wigs, Worldbuilding

Yesterday's Answer: King's Pawn

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at  
www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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# Butler scores 56, Heat stun Bucks 119-114 for 3-1 lead



**MIAMI (AP)—**Jimmy Butler had the game of his life, and the Miami Heat had a comeback for the ages.

Butler scored 56 points—tying the fourth-best scoring performance ever in an NBA playoff game—and the Heat roared back from 14 points down in the final quarter to stun the Milwaukee Bucks 119-114 on Monday night to put the NBA's top overall seed on the brink of early elimination.

The 56 points also became Butler's career high, as well as a franchise playoff record. And the 14-point fourth-quarter comeback became Miami's biggest of the season, at the absolute biggest time.

"We knew what we were capable of, even if nobody outside of this building, outside of this roster and outside of this organization believed in us," Butler said. "That's fine. We just want to continue to do what we know is possible."

It is a statistically improbable story: The No. 8 seed now leads the No. 1 seed 3-1, something that has only happened four other times since the NBA went to the 16-team playoff format in 1984.

But Butler has willed them there. He was 19 for 28 from the field, 15 of 18 from the foul line and added nine rebounds.

"We deserved to win that game," Heat center Bam Adebayo said, "because he played incredible."

Brook Lopez scored 36 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for Milwaukee. Giannis Antetokounmpo returned from a two-game absence with a bruised back



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) celebrates after scoring during the second half of Game 4 in a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Milwaukee Bucks, Monday, April 24, 2023, in Miami.

and had a triple-double—26 points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists.

The Bucks—who now need to win three straight, starting with Game 5 at Milwaukee on Wednesday—led almost the whole way, until the Heat roared back in the final minutes. Miami was 8 for 9 from the floor in the final six minutes, Milwaukee was 4 for 13, and the Heat outscored the Bucks 30-13 in that game-ending stretch.

"We didn't make enough plays on either end," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "And they did."

Butler had 21 of his points in the fourth, and the Heat still trailed 101-89 after a layup by Lopez with 6:09 left.

That's when a 13-0 run, capped by a Butler dunk off a Bucks turnover, put Miami

up for the first time all night with 3:17 left—102-101.

The lead changed hands four more times, and Butler's 3-pointer with 1:20 left put Miami ahead for good. He added a step-back jumper on Miami's next possession, punched the air in celebration, and the Heat knew they would soon be leaving with a 3-1 lead.

"For 40 minutes of this game, it was frustrating. ... It just shows you that when you have the right grit and perseverance, you can win," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And then it always helps to have a guy like him."

The only players to score more in a playoff game: Michael Jordan had 63 in 1986, Elgin Baylor had 61 in 1962, Donovan Mitchell had 57 in 2020. Butler became the

fourth with 56, joining Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain and Charles Barkley.

"He obviously played great," Lopez said. "He's been great all series long. He's been aggressive. He's been knocking down shots, shooting the 3 extremely well. There hasn't been a thing he hasn't been doing. It's a tough draw, but we have to keep getting better, keep making life tough for him, one game at a time."

Adebayo scored 15, Caleb Martin had 12 and Gabe Vincent scored 10 for the Heat.

Antetokounmpo missed Games 2 and 3 of the series—and most of Game 1—with a bruised lower back. He worked out Sunday, went through shootaround with the Bucks on Monday, got cleared to play and looked

good as new.

But Butler was better than ever.

He set the tone early—with the highest-scoring quarter of his career. He had 22 of Miami's 28 first-quarter points, including 20 in a row over a span of 5:45 late in the period.

And in the fourth, he had 21 more—leading a massive comeback, one that put a team that won an NBA-best 58 games this season squarely on the ropes in Round 1.

"The series is still going," Spoelstra said. "And we have great respect for the championship DNA that group has."

## LAKERS 117, GRIZZLIES 111, OT

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**LeBron James made the tying layup with 0.8 seconds left in regulation before scoring four of his 22 points in overtime, and the Los Angeles Lakers surged to a 3-1 lead in their first-round playoff series with a 117-111 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night.

The 38-year-old James also grabbed a career playoff-high 20 rebounds and added seven assists and two blocked shots while committing just one turnover in his 270th playoff game, extending his own NBA record. He became the first Lakers player to put up 20 points and 20 rebounds in a playoff game since Shaquille O'Neal in 2004.

"He just took over down the stretch," Anthony Davis said of James. "Got us a bucket to get to overtime. ... All our guys, it was a good team effort. This team is not going to go away."

Austin Reaves scored 23 points and Davis had five

of his 12 in overtime for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who have won two straight home games to move to the brink of their first playoff series victory outside the Florida bubble since 2012.

Los Angeles surged back from a seven-point deficit with five minutes left in regulation with a rally that abruptly began when D'Angelo Russell hit three consecutive 3-pointers, and the Lakers never trailed in OT.

"I'm so proud of our guys, the way we fought," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "We found a way."

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Memphis.

Desmond Bane scored 36 points and hit a tiebreaking layup with 6.7 seconds left in regulation for the second-seeded Grizzlies, who will have to rally from a 3-1 series deficit and win a Game 7 for the first time in franchise history to advance.

Ja Morant scored 19 points with his injured right hand, but Davis blocked his jumper at the regulation buzzer. The Grizzlies then missed six of their first eight shots in overtime while committing two key turnovers.

Dillon Brooks, who dismissed James as "old" after Game 2, had 11 points for Memphis after getting ejected from Game 3 for striking James in the groin.

James coolly scored the basket that forced overtime over heavy defensive pressure, and he hit a huge layup while getting fouled to put the Lakers up by five with 29.1 seconds to play in OT. Dennis Schröder and Austin Reaves buried two free throws apiece to seal the Lakers' 12th win in 15 games dating to the regular season.

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

A recruit in the Finnish military is now the NBA's Most Improved Player.

All-Star forward Lauri Markkanen of the Utah Jazz was announced Monday night as the winner of this season's most improved award, as voted on by 100 writers and broadcasters who cover the league.

The news came just past 2 a.m. Tuesday in Helsinki, where Markkanen is currently fulfilling the military service that is mandated for all Finnish men before they turn 30.

"Didn't wake up at 2 a.m. for nothing," Markkanen said on the TNT broadcast of the announcement. "It feels great. Obviously, it's a huge privilege to be in this position."

He began his enlistment in his home country earlier this

## Markkanen, serving his Finnish service, wins most improved

month — even getting rid of his longish curly hair for the shaved-head look of a soldier. He spent a few days in Finland with family after the Jazz season ended, then started his military commitment.

"Days are pretty long," Markkanen said of his military duties. "We wake up early and go for probably 10, 12 hours straight. It's been fun, getting to know a lot of new guys, making some new friends and knowing you have to go through it together. It's actually been pretty good."

Markkanen beat out fellow finalists Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of Oklahoma City and Jalen Brunson of New York for the award. Markkanen got 69 of the 100 first-place votes and appeared on every ballot; Gilgeous-Alexander got 24 first-place votes and was

second, Brunson got four first-place votes and was third.

Markkanen shattered his career-best for points per game this season, averaging 25.6—a 73% increase over his average of 14.8 last season with Cleveland. He also set career highs in minutes per game, field goal percentage, 3-pointers per game and was an All-Star for the first time.

Part of Markkanen's success this season came from having a bigger role—he was sent to Utah by Cleveland as part of the trade that brought longtime Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell to the Cavaliers. The Jazz also traded center Rudy Gobert to Minnesota last summer.

But his improved effectiveness also cannot be argued and was a big factor. His shooting was much better this sea-

son around the rim and in the mid-range game than it was in past seasons. All of his shooting percentages—2-pointers, 3-pointers and free throws—also exceeded his career averages entering this season.

"The right place at the right time," Markkanen said of turning his first Utah season into his best season so far.

He's the first player to win the award as a member of the Jazz, and the seventh international player to be voted most improved, joining Gheorghe Muresan in 1996, Boris Diaw in 2006, Hedo Turkoglu in 2008, Goran Dragic in 2014, Giannis Antetokounmpo in 2017 and Pascal Siakam in 2019.

The military service this summer might include some basketball, which would actually count toward his require-

ment. Markkanen is likely to play for Finland in this summer's World Cup, which starts in late August in the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia.

Playing international basketball last summer—Markkanen had a tremendous EuroBasket tournament as Finland's best player—served as a springboard into this season, he said. He was Utah's go-to guy this season, and learned that role with the national team.

"It gave me all the confidence in the world," Markkanen said. "It was kind of easy to take over after that, and obviously, this is just the beginning."

Markkanen is the fifth person to receive one of the NBA's individual awards so far this year, following the reveals of Memphis' Jaren

Jackson Jr. as defensive player of the year, Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox as the inaugural winner of the clutch player award, Kings coach Mike Brown as a unanimous pick for coach of the year and Boston's Malcolm Brogdon as sixth man of the year.

Still unannounced by the league:

■ Rookie of the year. Orlando's Paolo Banchero, Utah's Walker Kessler and Oklahoma City's Jalen Williams are the finalists. The winner will be announced on Tuesday.

■ Most Valuable Player. Two-time reigning MVP Nikola Jokic of Denver is a finalist again, along with Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo and Philadelphia's Joel Embiid. The NBA has not said when the MVP trophy will be handed out.

■ The All-NBA, All-Rookie and All-Defensive teams.



# Strider takes no-hitter into 8th as Braves shut out Marlins



ATLANTA (AP)—Spencer Strider

took a no-hitter into the eighth inning and struck out 13 as the Atlanta Braves snapped a four-game skid Monday night, hitting five home runs in an 11-0 victory over the Miami Marlins.

Fans booed when Jean Segura singled to end Strider's no-hit bid with one out in the eighth, and Jon Berti followed with a single. But the right-hander fanned the next two batters to finish his dominant outing with a flourish.

Strider had a perfect game going until Gold Glove first baseman Matt Olson made a fielding error on a leadoff grounder by Jazz Chisholm Jr. in the seventh.

Sam Hilliard homered twice, and Sean Murphy, Eddie Rosario and Austin Riley also connected as the Braves avoided their first five-game losing streak since September 2017, when they ended the season with six straight defeats.

Strider (3-0) threw 81 of his 101 pitches for strikes and lowered his ERA to 1.80.

Edward Cabrera (1-2) allowed four runs in 4 1/3 innings.

## RAYS 8, ASTROS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Rookie Taj Bradley won his third consecutive start to begin his big league career and Tampa Bay set a modern era MLB record with its 14th consecutive home win to begin a season.

The Rays are 20-3 overall. Only the 1911 Detroit Tigers and 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers had better starts at 21-2 since 1901.

The 22-year-old Bradley (3-0) allowed three runs and four hits with six strikeouts and no walks in five innings.

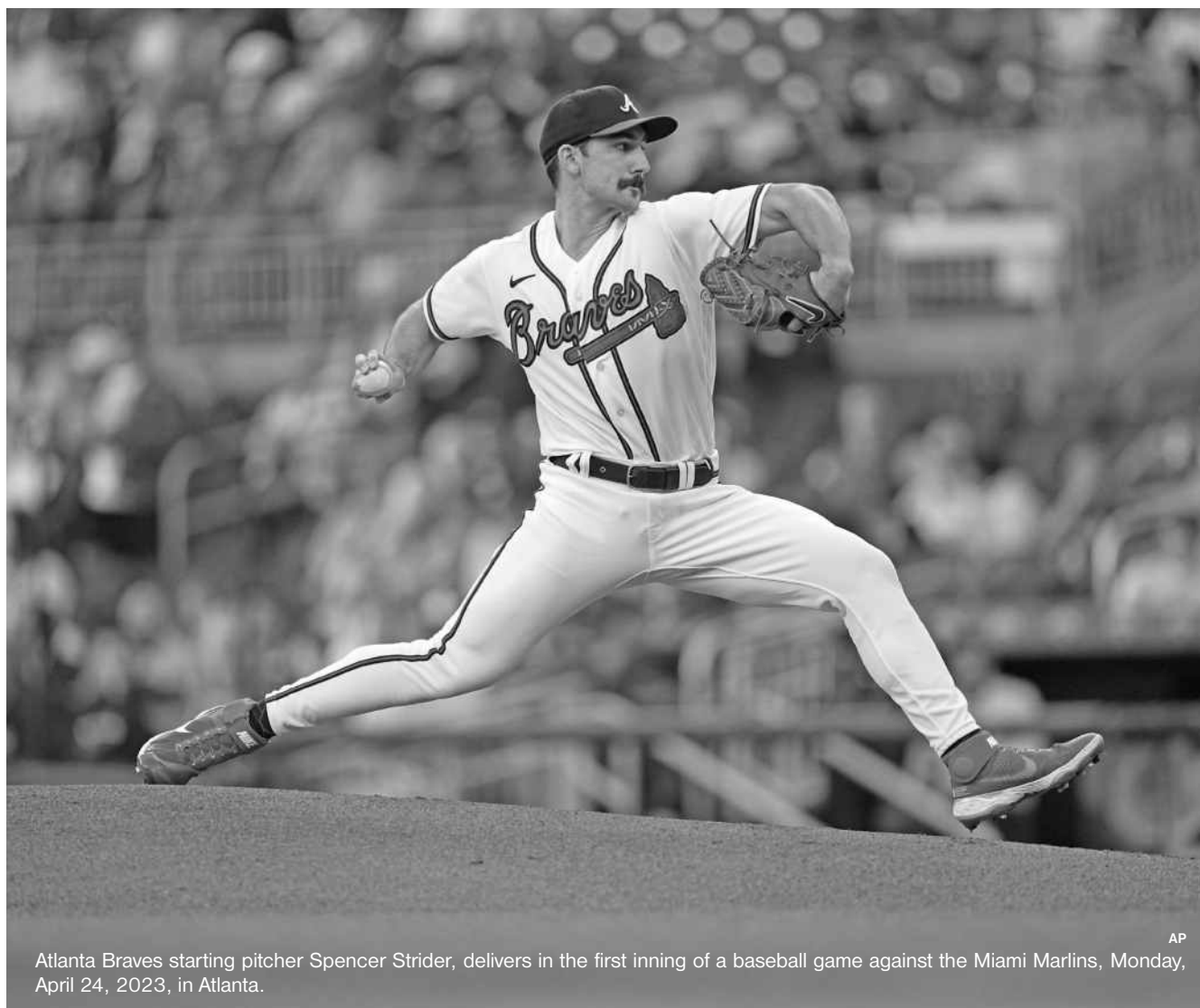
Alex Bregman and Jeremy Peña homered for the Astros, who had a four-game winning streak halted. Mauricio Dubón extended his hitting streak to 18 games.

After Peña had a solo shot in the third, the Rays chased Houston starter José Urquidy (1-2) with a four-run outburst in the bottom half to go ahead 6-3.

## TIGERS 4, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Nick Maton had a three-run homer and Matthew Boyd pitched effectively for five innings to lead Detroit Tigers over Milwaukee.

Boyd (1-1) allowed two runs on five hits in five innings, striking out eight and walking one as the Brewers lost consecutive games for the first time this season.



Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Spencer Strider, delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Monday, April 24, 2023, in Atlanta.

José Cisnero, Tyler Holton and Jason Foley each tossed a scoreless inning and Alex Lange finished with a perfect ninth for his second save in three chances.

Colin Rae (0-1), making his third start since being called up after Brandon Woodruff went on the injured list, allowed four runs on five hits in five innings, walking four with one strikeout.

## REDS 7, RANGERS 6

CINCINNATI (AP)—TJ Friedl drove in the game-winning run with a ninth-inning single and the Cincinnati Reds snapped a six-game losing streak.

José Leclerc (0-1) walked Jonathan India to lead off the ninth. India went to second on a passed ball and scored on Friedl's single to right.

The Reds came back from a 5-1 third-inning deficit and tied the game in the eighth on back-to-back bases-loaded walks to Henry Ramos and Nick Senzel by Leclerc.

Alexis Díaz (1-1), Cincinnati's fourth relief pitcher, pitched a perfect ninth for the win.

Josh Jung hit home runs in consecutive innings and drove in three runs for the AL West-leading Rangers.

## ORIOLES 5, RED SOX 4

BALTIMORE (AP)—Ramón Urías hit a two-run double in the fourth inning, and Baltimore rallied from a four-run deficit for its seventh straight victory.

Chris Sale (1-2) allowed nine hits — one by each member of the Baltimore batting order — in five innings, failing to hold onto a 4-0 lead after Triston Casas and Rafael Devers homered for Boston. Dean Kremer (2-0) wasn't great either for the Orioles, but he made it into the sixth inning after some early struggles and gave his team a chance to come back.

After Kremer exited, the Baltimore bullpen pitched 3 1/3 hitless innings. After Danny Coulombe allowed a leadoff walk in the ninth, Yennier Cano came on and balked the runner to second. Kiké Hernández struck out looking, Casas went down swinging and Jarren Duran lined out for Cano's first career save.

## BLUE JAYS 5, WHITE SOX 2

TORONTO (AP)—Chris Bassitt pitched 6 1/3 innings before leaving because of a sore lower back, Cavan Biggio hit a three-run home run and Toronto Blue beat Chicago.

Bassitt (3-2) called manager John Schneider and the trainer to the mound in the seventh after bouncing his first pitch to Luis Robert Jr. Zach Pop came on and finished the inning. Jordan Romano finished for his eighth save in nine chances.

Chicago's Andrew Vaughn opened the scoring with a two-run double off Bassitt in the third, but the Blue Jays answered with a four-run fourth

off White Sox right-hander Lance Lynn (0-3), who allowed four runs and five hits in five innings.

Robert soared over the low wall in deep center to deny Matt Chapman for the second out of the inning, but the next five Blue Jays batters reached safely. Whit Merrifield hit an RBI double before Biggio followed with his second home run.

## TWINS 6, YANKEES 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Sonny Gray pitched seven scoreless innings and Joey Gallo homered as the two former Yankees helped Minnesota beat New York.

Jorge Polanco added two hits and three RBIs for the Twins, who have won three of the first five meetings with their longtime nemesis this year. The Yankees are 100-41 against Minnesota in the regular season since 2002, the best record for any team versus one opponent during that span.

New York is also 16-2 against the Twins in the post-season during that stretch.

Gray (3-0) gave up three hits and struck out eight, dropping his ERA to a big league-best 0.62. The veteran right-hander went 15-16 with a 4.51 ERA in parts of two seasons for New York.

Rookie right-hander Jhonny Brito (2-2) had another tough outing against the Twins, allowing three runs on three hits and three walks in 2 2/3 innings.

## DIAMONDBACKS 5, ROYALS 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Christian Walker scampered home for the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on Nick Ahmed's infield single, leading Arizona past Kansas City.

Ahmed—who was pinch hitting—brought home Walker on a one-out infield single off reliever Aroldis Chapman (0-1). Ahmed hit the ball off the end of his bat and the result was essentially a swinging bunt down the first base line. Vinnie Pasquantino tried to get Walker at home, but the throw was late.

D-backs lefty Andrew Chafrin (2-0) got the win with 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief. He struck out Salvador Perez and Frammil Reyes to end the game.

## ROCKIES 6, GUARDIANS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Austin Gomber bounced back from a hideous start to get his first win, Jurickson Profar drove in three runs and Colorado won for just the second time in 13 games.

Gomber (1-4) held the Guardians to three singles—all by Steven Kwan—in five scoreless innings. The left-hander was pounded for nine runs and nine hits in just two innings in a loss to Pittsburgh on April 19.

Profar homered in the first off Cal Quantrill (1-2), who lost for only the second time in 36 career starts at Progressive Field. Quantrill has lost

both starts at home in 2023 after going 14-0 over his first 44 appearances in Cleveland.

The Rockies stopped a three-game losing skid to improve to 7-17.

## GIANTS 4, CARDINALS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Alex Cobb pitched his first shutout in 11 years and J.D. Davis hit a three-run homer, leading San Francisco over St. Louis.

Cobb (1-1) scattered six hits and struck out four in his fifth career complete game and first since 2018 with Baltimore. His only other major league shutout was a four-hitter for Tampa Bay against Oakland in August 2012.

It was the third complete game in the majors this season. Yankees ace Gerrit Cole and Marlins star Sandy Alcantara each tossed a shutout against Minnesota this month.

Cobb walked one and threw 70 of his 109 pitches for strikes as the Giants won their third straight game for the first time this year.

Cardinals starter Jordan Montgomery (2-3) allowed an unearned run over six-plus innings in his third consecutive loss. St. Louis has dropped all eight series openers this season, matching a dubious franchise record set in 1988.

## ATHLETICS 11, ANGELS 10, 10 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Ryan Noda hit a two-run double in the 10th inning, Brent Rooker and Jesús Aguilar became the first Athletics teammates to hit back-to-back homers twice in one game and Oakland rallied past Los Angeles after blowing an early six-run lead.

The Angels got within a run on Brandon Drury's two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th and had runners on first and second with two outs, but Mike Trout hit a grounder to third that ended the game.

Adam Oller (1-0) got the win and Jeurys Familia earned his second save.

With runners at the corners, Noda lined a double off Jaime Barria (1-1) to make it 10-8. Noda, who came off the bench in the ninth and scored the tying run when Rooker walked with the bases loaded, then scored on Tony Kemp's single.

Aguilar had three hits and Rooker drove in three runs for the A's, who had lost nine of 10. Kevin Smith also went deep as Oakland launched five home runs in the first three innings.

Drury had two homers among his three hits and drove in four for the Angels. Chad Wallach also homered and drove in two.



# ACS steals W in close caging matchup

By LEIGH GASES

leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Agape Christian School stole a win against Cha-Ocean View Middle School in a close matchup of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Both teams fought hard throughout the game and by the last buzzer, the final score was 32-31.

The Torchbearers had a one-day break from playing and bounced back after their only loss of the season so far against a strong DanDan Middle School team.

In this game, though the Lancherus picked up just their second win of the season, put up a valiant fight to the finish but just fell short by one point and blew what would've been their third win.

The Torchbearers early on were putting up big numbers as Daniel Song made a basket from the 3-point line. Attacks at the basket were then made consecutively by Daniel Yang and then another 3-pointer resounded off a



MARK RABAGO

In this file photo, Agape Christian School's Raffy Cai, left, leaps into the air for a layup as Saipan Community School's David Ye attempts to block it during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

jump shot by Song.

The Lancherus were not quiet either as they kept pace with the Torchbearers with Liam Wilson scoring 8 points. By the end of the first half, it was a tied 16-16 ball game.

Heading into the second half, the heat was turned up on the court as both teams wanted the win. Another big 3-point shot was made by the Torchbearers' Raffy Cai who was followed up with a three-pointer by Song a little later.

Momentum swayed for both sides with Wilson still making his markers for a back-and-forth shooting

game. The game slowed down a bit after COVMS' Aiken Norita sank three free throws after he was fouled.

It was still a tight game and it could go either way in the last seconds but a clutch free throw made by Song in the final seconds sealed the deal for the Torchbearers as the Lancherus fell short by one in a game played with maximum effort from both teams.

In other varsity results that day, DMS routed SIS in another close game, 33-32; Mount Carmel School pulled away from Hopwood Middle School to win 25-20; and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School won a lopsided 43-15 game against Tanapag Middle School.

For the junior varsity bout, FMS JV overpowered MCS JV, 34-7; and HMS JV won against DMS JV 13-7.

As of Friday in the varsity standings, DMS are undefeated with five wins, FMS and SIS have five wins and one loss; ACS are at 4-1; MCS has a 3-2 record; COVMS are 2-4; Saipan Community School are 1-3; TMS are 1-5; and Grace Christian Academy and HMS have no wins and five losses.

**ACS 32** – Song 16, Yang 8, Cai 5.

**COVMS 31** – Wilson 15, Pangelinan 4, Seman 4, Norita 3, Apatang 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 16-16; 32-31.

## Pedernal is first-time monthly champ

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Emil Pedernal won his first ever monthly championship after topping the Fil-Taga Golfers Association April Ace of the Month Tournament last April 15 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The 54-year-old Batangas, Philippines native carded a net 67 after shooting a 40-41 in the front and back nine for a gross of 81.

The HVAC technician at Pacific Islands Club Saipan attributed his breakthrough win to the TaylorMade driver good friend Ruben Avendano let him borrow during the tourney.

"My drive improved by as much as 70 yards," said Pedernal whose old driver was a 2004 second-hand model that was a hand-me-down from his older brother Rudy.

"I only missed two fairways with Ruben's driver and I heard he was gonna let me have it for keeps," he said.



Pedernal

Pedernal dedicated his win in the Fil-Taga April tournament to God and his loving family. He also thanked his brother, Rudy, who used to work on Saipan and is now based in the U.S. mainland where he runs a successful golf academy, and of course Avendano.

Pedernal, who only started playing golf in 2004 and joined Fil-Taga in 2016, said it took him a while to win a monthly tournament because he doesn't regularly play golf as much as he wants to.

"Sometimes it will be two months before I could play again," he said.

Mike Cruz finished second to Pedernal for the April monthly championship after shooting a stroke higher with a net 68 (43-44, gross of 87), while Albert Pajarillaga (45-42, 87) edged Tom Palikkun (39-40, 79) via scorecard tiebreaker after both players submitted identical scores of net 70.

Adony Matutino (net 71), Ed Varias (net 71), Das Krishnan (net 71), Roland Merar (net 71), Wil Maui (net 74), Bert Suda (net 74), Henry Bautista (net 75), Jhun Cayetano (net 78), Edgar Abalos (net 78), Dan Ganacias (net 80), and Jess Yumul (net 84) also took part in the April tourney.

In the par 3 competition, Merar (twice), Abalos, and Krishnan were declared winners.

## OL'ACES

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The game was a rout from the opening period, as Blue Eagle went to 6'3" De Shawn Reign early and often against the much smaller Pepoy's team.

Reign scored at will, while Pepoy's couldn't hit the broadside of the bar. After an 18-5 first quarter, Blue Eagle would only increase that lead to 51-19 at the break.

Pepoy's changed their pink-colored jerseys in the second half, but the yellow jerseys only worked for a quarter that saw them trim their deficit to as low as 12 before Blue Eagle, this time led by Andrew Ashburn, finally mercifully put them away.

Blue Eagle, which caught their victims at 2-2 in the masters division, was led

by the 23 points of Ashburn, while Reign pounded the rock inside for 17 points.

Pepoy's anemic stand was spearheaded by the 16 points of Bryan Natividad and the 10 points of Moreno Martin.

In the lone completed game last Thursday, JSN Enterprises wiped the floor clean of RNV Construction, 82-57, in the masters division. The former thus leveled its record to 2-2, while the latter is winless in five games.

There was also only one game completed last Friday and it saw Ol'Aces give A's Car Aircon its first defeat, 97-87, in the masters division following a rugged game. Ol'Aces improved to 3-2, while A's Car Aircon dropped to 5-1.

Last Monday's matchups then saw Lakay (3-4) edge Checkpoint International (0-8), 76-72, in the open division, while Blue Haus (5-0)

drubbed Double A Corp. (1-4), 84-67, in the masters.

### First Game

**Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific 91** – Ashburn 23, Reign 17, Villarin 9, Francisco 8, Morales 3, Echavez 2, Estolas 2, Manipon 2.

**Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant 66** – Natividad 16, Moreno 10, Galulu 8, Viacrucis 7, Mina 5, Usi 5, Rabago 4, Ebuen 2, Camacho 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-5, 51-19, 64-45, 91-66.

### Second Game

**Martech Ol'Aces 84** – Basa 21, Schmidt 17, Fitial 13, Brungard 6, Barcinas 4, Diaz 4, Atan 3, Soani 2, Libuw 1.

**Ali'i 59** – Castro 12, De Dios 10, Elchico 10, De Guzman 7, Tania 7, N. Mateo 7, Esdrelon 6.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-13, 39-35, 67-48, 84-59.

with a time of 1:27.47; second was BSS' Lucy Thomsen at 1:31.62; third was Lovena Zhou from ACS at 1:46.72.

GES came out with the top spot in Heat 2 of the 12U boys 400m with Kanoa Owens' time of 1:29.92; second was teammate Nolasko Kaniki with 1:35.71; third was Kagman Elementary School's Frederick Quitugua at 1:38.09.

The Mallards then came out in first place in the 9U girls softball throw event with Defina Dowai's 19.45m throw. Second was Rudith Camacho from GTC at 18.93m and third was Proa Hiroichi at 14.59m.

The elementary school championships are scheduled for this Friday, April 28, and Saturday, April 29.

## GES

From Page 20

400m were also dominated by the Mallards. Heat 1 Top 3 were Seraya Kaniki at 1:17.91; second was Maina Salas from GTC at 1:27.97; third was Kanani Muna from GTC at 1:44.64. In Heat 2, Rhiana Macalinao won first

outs. When it seemed like BDE were going to blow the game wide open, Lady Blue Jays pitcher Angel Deleon Guerrero struck out the side before they could do any more damage.

In the last inning, the Lady Blue Jays battled and scored in two runs before they were retired and with one more shot at the bat, BDE were denied anymore hits as the Lady Blue Jays' defense came in clutch and shut them out for a close 7-5 game.

In the Hotshots-Lady Sufa game, the former were on fire from their first at-bat in the bottom of the first inning. A double by Janica Lizama brought in Rosie Saralu, while Nish Mario had an RBI single of her own.

Three more runs came in

for the Hotshots in the second for a 5-0 lead over Lady Sufa. One run then came in the third inning off a triple by Stacy Eno who then crossed home plate from a sacrifice hit by Kayla Reyes.

Lady Sufa's deficit then increased in the third inning when a two-run home run by Mario made it a 7-1 game. The inning wasn't over the Hotshots as three more runs came in after Mario's long shot.

Only one more run was made by Lady Sufa on account of a fielding error by the Hotshots, but they were then shut down in the last inning as the Hotshots put up two more runs for a 12-2 lopsided win.

Results of the men's division will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.





Butler scores 56,  
Heat stun Bucks  
119-114 for 3-1  
lead.  
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ACS steals W  
in close caging  
matchup.  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Ol'Aces leaves tired Ali'i in the lurch

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**M**artech Ol'Aces played their cards right and beat a tired Ali'i crew, 84-59, in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.



With the win, Martech Ol'Aces remained perfect after six games, while Ali'i absorbed only its second loss in six games.

Most of Ali'i players were coming off a game in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League

and were already gassed even before warming up for the SCLC caging.

Martech Ol'Aces took advantage and scored in spades in the opening quarter, which they took, 23-13.

Ali'i refused to give up though and narrowed the gap in the second and trailed by only 4 points, 39-35, at intermission.

Fatigue finally set in for Ali'i at the start of the second half and it also didn't help that Martech Ol'Aces continued to scorch them on offense. The result Martech Ol'Aces blew the game wide open, 67-48, with only a quarter to go.

It was all over but the shouting in the payoff period as there was no rest for the Ali'i weary in their 25-point loss.

Former national players Preston Basa and Douglas "Spyder" Schmidt led Martech Ol'Aces with 21 points and 17 points, respectively. Reymark Castro was the high-point man for Ali'i with 12 points, while Marlon De Dios and Carlos Elchico scored 10 markers apiece.

Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific, meanwhile, blew out a listless Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant, 91-66, in the opener.

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MARK RABAGO

Martech Ol'Aces' Douglas "Spyder" Schmidt drives against Ali'i's Nate Mateo in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

## GES tops last athletic qualifiers

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



Garapan Elementary School topped the last qualifiers of the 9U and 12U elementary school PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The Mallards led nine heats

in the boys and girls 100m and 400m, and the 9U girls softball throw event. Tied with five heat wins each were Brilliant Star School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

GES first led in the 9U girls 100m Heat 1 with Cali Reyes in first place at 16.67; teammate Proa Hiroichi was second at 17.81; third was Hanna Song from Agape Christian School at 18.60 seconds.

The Mallards also topped Heat 2 with Athitaya Sawi-

kan in first place with 18.42; second was Grace Christian Academy's Nalani Takeda at 18.78; third was Jairie Camacho from Brilliant Star School at 20.67 seconds.

The Mallard boys then swept all three heats of the 9U boys 400m. Shurab Minto led Heat 1 with 1:31.80; Kintino Eleislar from GTC was second at 1:35.91; and Brayden Brennfleck was third with 1:36.45.

Aedrian Iglesias topped Heat 2 with 1:33.68; second

was Chase Cruz from GTC at 1:39.96; third was ACS' Joshua Huang at 1:49.36. In Heat 3, Top 3 were Andrey Tay at 1:28.43; second was BSS' Antisha Heras; and Cloud Tian with 1:35.22.

The 9U girls 400m was topped by Calu Reyes again at 1:29.59; Proa Hiroichi was second at 1:35.28; and third was BSS' Claire Fehrenbacher at 1:41.28.

Both heats in the 12U girls  
See GES on **Page 19**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elementary school 9U boys runners are seen in the last qualifiers of the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

## Lady Blue Jays, Hotshots blast past softball foes

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



The Lady Blue Jays and Hotshots blasted past their foes in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

The Lady Blue Jays rallied in the last couple of innings to win against BDE, 7-5, while the Hotshots stung Lady Sufa 12-2.

BDE's Allana Sumang and Keina Rogopes were brought home in the fourth inning by Sonia Isaac to make it a 4-3 game after the Lady Blue Jays had a

See LADY on **Page 19**



LEIGH GASES

Lady Blue Jays outfielder Rayna Deleon Guerrero goes for the pop-up in a close collision with teammate Rachel Salalila during their win against BDE in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.